

THE TIMES

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20p

Portfolio

£42,000 to be won

There is £42,000 available to be won in The Times Portfolio competition today. Last week's £20,000 prize was not won, so that is added to this week's £20,000, making a total of £42,000. And there is the daily prize of £2,000 also available.

Yesterday's prize was shared by three winners. Mr Jack Caldwell of Coulsdon, Surrey; Mrs Valerie Haggie of Haslemere, Surrey, and Mr Richard Rooper of Canning Town, London, each received £666.66. Portfolio list, page 28; prices changes, information service, back page.

Reagan and Kohl make arms cuts a priority

President Reagan and Chancellor Kohl of West Germany issued a joint declaration yesterday calling for improved East-West relations, strengthening of Nato's conventional defences, and an intensified search for nuclear arms reductions.

The declaration was issued after talks at the White House, the first in a series of discussions the United States is having with Japan and its European allies before exploring the possibility of reopening nuclear arms negotiations with the Soviet Union early next year.

President Reagan said yesterday he pleased "a high priority on the search for a responsible means of reducing the arsenals of nuclear weapons that threaten humankind".

110 killed in Sri Lanka

Eighty people were killed on two farms in northern Sri Lanka during attacks by Tamil separatists. The dead were apparently former prisoners settled on half-acre homesteads. Later, troops were said to have killed 30 rebels.

Page 6

Heath outburst

Mr Edward Heath accused Mrs Thatcher in television interview last night of taking undue risks with Britain's social stability. He also criticized the decision to cut student grants.

Speech, Page 4

Strangler jailed

A man who strangled his three young daughters because his wife was unfaithful was found guilty of manslaughter and jailed for six years.

Page 3

Cyprus hope

The Turkish Cypriots opened the way to a possible breakthrough over the divided island's future by offering big concessions in a UN peace plan.

Page 6

Polish deaths

Two senior police officers leading the investigation into the murder of pro-Solidarity priest Father Jerzy Popieluszko were killed in a road accident yesterday. Earlier story, page 5

Terror threat

The Muslim extremists who claimed they killed Percy Norris, the British diplomat, in Bombay also claimed responsibility for yesterday's bomb attack on a British Airways office in Beirut. More attacks were promised.

Train off rails

A British Rail express split in half yesterday and five carriages were derailed. BR has launched an inquiry into the incident - the second this week.

Page 3

Belgrano inquiry

Scotland Yard has been called in to investigate the disappearance of logs from HMS Conqueror, the submarine that sank the General Belgrano during the Falklands conflict.

Page 2

Free banking

Midland Bank's decision to offer free banking to customers with a £100 minimum balance will put pressure on other big banks to follow suit.

Family Money, page 26

'Trustees not fit to be in charge of other people's money'

NUM assets and funds under receiver's control

- The High Court has appointed a receiver to control the NUM's funds and assets, effectively removing the union's three top officers as trustees
- Mr Herbert Brewer, the receiver, was preparing last night to leave for Luxembourg to seek the release of £4.38 million of the mining union's funds

By David Featon, Labour Correspondent

A receiver was appointed by the High Court last night to take control of the National Union of Mineworkers' funds and assets after claims that the union's trustees, including its three most senior officers, were "not fit and proper persons to be in charge of other people's money".

The receiver, a Derbyshire solicitor, was appointed after the granting of an order by Mr Justice Mervyn Davies, the effect of which will also be to remove the five NUM trustees, including Mr Arthur Scargill, Mr Michael McGahey and Mr Peter Heathfield, president, vice-president and general secretary.

The action was started after being initially postponed until next Thursday, after Mr William Stubbs QC, appearing for the union, said he was unable to give the judge assurances that the union would submit to the court's jurisdiction.

NUM lawyers announced that they would seek an urgent appeal against the ex parte order, which could be heard over the weekend if a Court of Appeal can be constituted. Their application to Mr Justice Davies for the order to be suspended until Monday morning was rejected.

The receiver, Mr Herbert Brewer, was planning to go to Luxembourg immediately to seek the release of £4.38m of the union's funds held in a bank.

Lawyers representing working miners who brought yesterday's action say the aim is to repatriate the money so that it can be properly invested for the benefit of members.

Earlier, the union had given assurances that it would not seek to move the money from Nobis-Finance International

Receiver's role

until after the working miners' action was heard in the High Court next Thursday. But after complaints from Mr Howard Page, representing the four partners in Price Waterhouse, who are acting as sequestrators, that the assurances were worthless, the judge asked for assurances about conduct.

"Today for the first time the defendants have appeared in court and have reaffirmed their undertakings to the court. I take the view that those undertakings would be of value only if, in future, the defendants will submit to the jurisdiction of the court and not defy it in the way that they have in the past," Mr Justice Davies said.

After a ten-minute adjournment during which lawyers took

instructions from officials, including Mr Heathfield, and Mr Roger Windsor, chief executive. Mr Stubbs said it was impossible to give assurances because one of the trustees, Mr Scargill, was travelling to Stoke-on-Trent for a Labour Party rally with Mr Neil Kinnock.

He said that he would be able to reply to the judge on Monday.

Mr Oliver, for the working miners who are mainly from Nottinghamshire, said actions of the union's trustees had been

"to continue serious and deliberate contempts of orders which place the funds that they hold for the union in jeopardy."

The sequestrors, who have been appointed to seize union funds to pay a £200,000 contempt fine, have obtained £8,174. In addition to the money in Luxembourg, £2.78m had been frozen in Dublin and £503,000 was in Zurich.

Mr Oliver said the three senior officials had embarked on a concerted course of action since before the strikes started last March to hide union funds from British courts. The money had travelled from Sheffield by various routes to the Isle of Man, Dublin, New York, Zurich and Luxembourg. The officials were leaving the union's funds open to jeopardy.

Confirmed on back page, col 7

From Tim Jones
Merthyr Tydfil

More than 120 South Wales miners were involved in a

murder inquiry yesterday after a

taxi driver taking a working

miner in his pit was killed when

a block of concrete thrown from

a bridge smashed through the

windscreen of his vehicle.

The police said last night that

three men were helping them

with their inquiries.

The dead man was named as

Mr David Wilkie, aged 35

(right), whose common law

wife, Janet Reid, is expecting a

baby at Christmas. He also

leaves two children, a daughter

Claire, aged 12, and a son

Jason, aged 5. Last night Mrs

Reid who has only one kidney,

was in hospital suffering from

shock.

Mr David East, the Chief

Constable of South Wales, said:

"The dead man was a taxi

driver engaged on his lawful

business of earning a living by

taking a fare - a miner who

wanted to go to work as he is

perfectly and lawfully entitled

to do so.

This is not industrial action.

Continued on back page, col 7



The taxi in which Mr Wilkie died and the lump of concrete that was pushed off the bridge.

Taxi driver carrying miner killed by concrete slab

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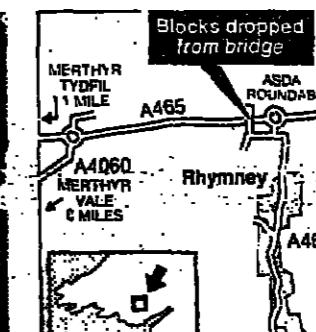
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Continued on back page, col 7



Williams to the Merthyr Vale

pit six miles from his home

where 250 pickets were waiting

for him and another working

miner.

The taxi travelled on the

same route that it had used for

the last 10 days and as Mr

Wilkie's taxi careered out of

control onto the embankment

the police saw two figures

running from the bridge. Mr

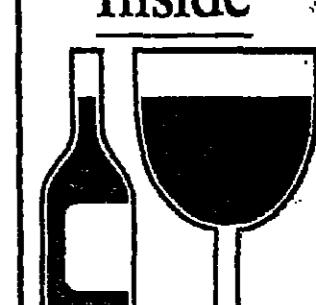
Wilkie was dead before an

ambulance took him to hospital.

Two months ago, Mr Viv

Continued on back page, col 7

Inside



Cellar sellers

The best wines at your supermarket this Christmas

Page 11

Surprise packages

Unusual gifts for those who are hard to please

Page 17

Pit and the pendulum

We could bear the coal strike

for 10 years, says

Woodrow Wyatt

Page 8

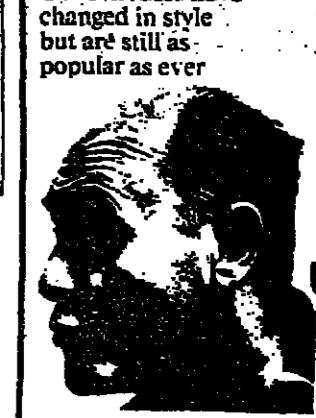
Monday

The patient's progress

Jonathan Miller tells how one man lives with Parkinson's disease

Small property in demand

Doll's houses have changed in style but are still as popular as ever



The man and his music

Exclusive interview with Sir Georg Solt

Yard is called in over missing log books of Falklands submarine

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

The Metropolitan Police has been called in to investigate the disappearance of control room logs from HMS Conqueror, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, said yesterday, after the failure of a naval board of inquiry to locate the six documents covering much of the Falklands war during which the submarine sank the cruiser General Belgrano.

The board, a captain and two commanders on the staff of Admiral Sir William Staveley, Commander in Chief of the Fleet, also failed "to identify a proven explanation for their disappearance".

Mr Heseltine disclosed in a Commons written answer that the three-week inquiry had found that proper procedures for the safe handling and custody of control room logs had not been followed "for many months", including between March and October 1982, covered by the missing logs.

The police investigation, headed by Detective Chief

Superintendent Ronald Hardy, Scotland Yard's unofficial "mole" hunter, is under way, the Director of Public Prosecutions office said last night.

In addition a "specify-constituted team" of senior naval officers will carry out further searches for the logs, which contain a full list of signals sent to London by the Conqueror before and after the Belgrano sinking.

While the ministry claimed it did not know where or when the logs were lost, Mr Foulkes said he understood all logs and documents were delivered intact to the ministry "after the most extensive debriefing of the crew". "The Government is responsible for the log and it is reprehensible that they should blame individual crew members for its loss."

Mr Denzil Davies, Labour's chief defence spokesman, said Mr Heseltine's failure to find the log "is as contemptuous as it is extraordinary". "Is he now washing his hands over the matter or is he going to pursue it with the same kind of zeal as he did with the cases of Sarah Tisdall and Clive Ponting?"

Pit strike: How the receiver works

Union to lose control of money

By Ian Griffiths

The receiver appointed by the court to take control of NUM funds and assets will take effective charge of its finances. Although accountable to the court and charged with carrying out its wishes, he will hold the union's purse strings.

His first task will be to bring under his control all assets. He flew to Luxembourg last night to initiate proceedings to return funds there.

The appointment is until next Thursday when the receiver must report to the court. If he can confirm that he has achieved control of funds and assets the court will decide his next move.

He could give the job of managing the union's assets, in

which case he will have a much wider impact on the NUM. The receiver would be able to control all union payments and be responsible for collecting money paid to the union.

Once the receiver has control it will be possible for the sequestrators to fulfil their obligations.

This type of appointment is very unusual. This kind of receiver would normally be appointed where there is a disagreement within a partnership.

The appointment also differs from the traditional commercial receivership where the receiver is appointed, normally by the banks or other creditors, to run a company.

Dr Simpson said the latest move did not spell the death of the union. The area branches could operate because they were separately registered.

Woodrow Wyatt, page 3

13 die since the start

By Rupert Morris

Thirteen people who were either involved in the coal industry or connected in some way with the miners' strike have died since the beginning of March. Although several of the deaths can be directly attributed to the coal strike, others have a more tenuous connexion.

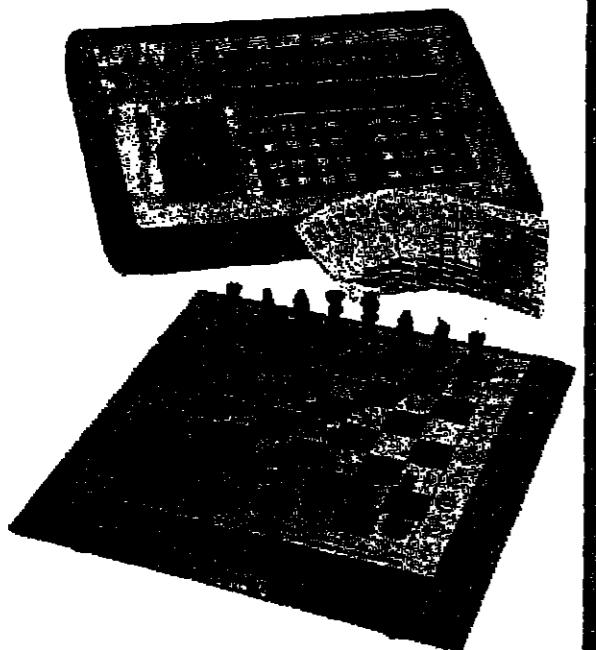
March 14: David Jones, aged 24, a picketing miner, collapsed and died after being crushed on the picket line outside Ollerton Colliery.

March 20: Thomas Milburn, aged 51, safety engineer, was killed in a runaway wagon underground at Dudson Colliery, Co Durham. He was investigating a rock fall, a task described by the coal board as "outside his normal duties".

March 26: Ian Tanner, aged 25, was found hanged at his home in Peterlee, Co Durham.

September 8: Paul Womers-

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Soap cure found for killer infection

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Hospital researchers investigating treatments for acne have discovered what they believe to be a cure for a killer "super germ" which has so far proved resistant to antibiotics.

A team at the Royal Liverpool Hospital was analysing the antiseptic ingredients of soaps, deodorants, perfumes and after-shave lotions at the same time as an outbreak of staphylococcus Aureus occurred on the premises. The outbreak forced the closure of the hospital's vascular unit for three weeks, two years ago.

A similar outbreak at the London Hospital, Whitechapel, earlier this year was a contributory factor in the deaths of up to 24 patients, and the infection is also causing serious problems in the United States and Australia.

The Royal Liverpool researchers recognized the potential value of the antiseptics in the toiletries and have developed a liquid soap, containing some of the ingredients. Infected patients are asked to use

Six years for girls' strangler

John Lambert who strangled his three daughters was jailed for six years at Oxford Crown Court yesterday after being convicted by a majority verdict of the manslaughter of Tracey, aged six, Hayley, aged four, and Rachel, aged three, on the grounds of diminished responsibility. He was cleared of murder.

Lambert, aged 34, of Briar Way, Oxford, was jailed for six years on each charge, to run concurrently.

Sentencing Lambert, a former car worker, Mr Justice Hutchinson said: "Any punishment I impose on you will be small compared to the remorse and anguish you will now feel and feel for the rest of your life as a result of the dreadful things you did."

It had taken the jury of eight women and four men almost five hours to reach their verdict.

Lambert's estranged wife, Sue, aged 30, who is expecting another child, flew into a hysterical rage when she heard the sentence.

Afterwards she said: "What am I going to do? He'll come and get me. He'll kill me."

The prosecution said that Lambert killed the girls to cause the maximum possible harm to his wife after he discovered she was having an affair.

Later, a spokesman for Women's Aid, Ms Penny Marsh, said: "The evidence of Mrs Lambert was never heard in court. This case gives men licence to kill or attempt to kill women and children."

Man jailed for revenge bomb blast

An unemployed man set up a home-made bomb to "shake" his neighbours upstairs after months of music and noise from their flat. The explosion that resulted in July this year, in a high-rise block of 120 flats in Burrows Court at Sleaford, Nottingham, destroyed three flats and resulted in the block being evacuated. Nottingham Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr John Deave, for the prosecution, said that no-one was injured but a number of people were frightened and shocked. Damage totalled £33,000 and people had to be rehoused.

David Lloyd, a widower, aged 53, who pleaded guilty to causing an explosion likely to endanger life, was jailed for two years.

Mr Deave said that Lloyd had been planning his revenge for a number of weeks. Six weeks before the explosion, he took an elderly lady living in the block: "There is going to be a big bang. They will wonder what hit them." She did not take him seriously, Mr Deave said.

Lloyd allegedly told police: "I am not proud of what I have done. I wanted to shake them upstairs. You have got to understand a man's nerves can only take so much."

Mr Justice Bush said: "No doubt you were sorely tried by the noise from the flat above over a long period of time and felt you could get no relief from the authorities. Nevertheless, no provocation can justify the steps you took."

Housing groups criticize cuts in lodging grant

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Government moves to cut board and lodging payments for the unemployed would mean a massive increase in homelessness next month, housing organizations said yesterday.

"If the proposals are implemented as they stand it could put 50,000 people on the streets," Mr Chris Smith, social security worker for the Campaign for Single Homeless (Chair) said.

Shefter said if the cuts went ahead "a lot of people are going to have to leave guest houses and bed and breakfasts with nowhere else to go, or will end up having to share in barracks-like dormitory hostels".

The government proposals, which are open to comment until December 28, are aimed at stopping alleged profiteering by hotel and guest house owners who have advertised for claimants to move, often to seaside towns, where they can receive board and lodging payments of between £80 and £10 a week.

In some cases, the Department of Health and Social Security claimed that proprietors had paid rail fares to bring claimants to their areas and young people were "enjoying a life style not normally available to them".

Boy nearly died in fishing rod attack

A youth aged 16 was ordered at the Central Criminal Court yesterday to be detained for 12 years for an attack that left a boy aged 10 blind in one eye.

Stephen Whitehead, resident at a special school at Redhill, Surrey, admitted causing grievous bodily harm with intent to the boy, and indecently assaulting him at a lake near Redhill on August 26 this year.

Mr John Nutting, for the prosecution, said the victim was repeatedly punched, partly strangled and hit on the head with a fishing rod. He was now blind in the right eye and had ugly scars.

Mr Nutting said it was a



Driving ambition: The Archbishop of Canterbury's wife, Mrs Rosalind Runcie, driving a double-deck bus yesterday in the grounds of Lambeth Palace, London. Dr Runcie on the running board watched as she fulfilled a life-long dream. The bus is one of five that took 500 Crisis at Christmas pilgrims to Canterbury before a sponsored walk back to London today to raise £25,000 (Photograph: Brian Harris).

Gun-chase log plea refused

The Irish naval officer heading the operation leading to the capture of the gun-running trawler the *Maria Ann* off co Kerry refused to hand over his ship's log to Dublin's Special Criminal Court yesterday.

Lieutenant Commander Brian Farrell, captain of the *Emer*, told Mr Martin Kennedy, defence counsel for Gavin Mortimer, one of five men charged with firearms offences that it was confidential.

Mr Kennedy said he needed to check if any of the ships to which men were transferred after the trawler's capture had gone outside Irish territorial waters. If they had the accused would not have been legally arrested.

Mr Justice James McMahon, presiding, instructed the commander to prepare a chart showing the course taken by his ship, the Irish Navy vessel *Ashling* and the *Maria Ann* after the arrest.

Mortimer, aged 33; John Browne, aged 42; Martin Ferris, aged 34, all from co Kerry, and former US marine John Crowley, aged 27, of co Kildare, deny possessing firearms and explosives.

The hearing continues on Tuesday.

Man pushed bodies through streets

A youth described to a jury yesterday how he wheeled the bodies of a workmate and his girl friend through deserted London streets at the dead of night.

David Carty, aged 18, told the Central Criminal Court that he wrapped Michelle Sadler and Robert Vaughan, both aged 17, loaded them onto a trolley and pushed them from Union Street to Mint Street, Southwark. There, he left them in a dumper truck at a children's adventure playground.

"Then I just walked around. I don't know why."

Eventually he went home, but during the night, while everyone at his home was asleep, returned to Union Street. "I brought both bodies upstairs. I carried them up. I put them on the trolley."

He put both bodies in a truck and removed the plastic, which he threw away. He returned the trolley to Union Street and went home. That evening police visited him at home.

Mr Alan Green, for the prosecution, has said that Carty sexually assaulted and strangled Michelle, of Chudleigh Street, Stepney, east London, and cut the throat of Robert, of Cherry Gardens Street, Rotherhithe, with a Stanley knife.

Mr Green has alleged that prints of Carty's trainer shoes were found in the blood.

The hearing continues on Monday.

Study shows child abuse as health problem

By David Nicholson-Lord

Doctors, social workers and police officers have been urged to treat sexual abuse of children by their fathers or stepfathers as a "major public health problem" causing serious emotional effects which are transmitted from one generation to the next.

After three years' research, a study group, has concluded that "fear and ignorance have prevented open discussion on the subject and that reported cases are only the tip of the iceberg". Many figures in authority are afraid to discuss it, because they have been personally involved, it adds.

The group's report, published yesterday, adds: "Sexual abuse occurs in secret, is kept a secret by the family and is being kept a secret by society's attitudes and taboos."

It makes 34 recommendations for action by schools, the police and local authorities and follows a survey by Mori showing that one in 10 British adults - more than four million - have been sexually abused as children, before the age of 16.

The poll, commissioned in advance of a three-part series on Channel Four tonight, is said to be the first representative national survey on the subject.

Experts said yesterday its findings accorded with their experience. Dr Arnon Ben-Gurion, a member of the study group and consultant psychiatrist at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital London, said their research indicated that four-fifths of victims were girls and 70 per cent of culprits fathers or stepfathers. Most cases occurred when the child was aged between six and 10.

Ms Carolyn Okell Jones, a senior social worker at the Tavistock Centre, said: "My basic plea is, please believe the children because we usually find they are absolutely right."

One of the report's recommendations is for "personal safety skills" to be taught to children at school. This should cover the issue if "appropriate and inappropriate touch", it says. Children might also be given more general "assertion training" for self-protection.

The report adds: "Children need to know of their exclusive rights over their own body,

particularly their sexual or private parts."

Ms Okell Jones said she had secured financial backing for a film on abuse to be shown in schools but it was proving difficult to attract official support.

Among the recommendations are an agreed definition of abuse to include incest, intercourse and other sexual activity. The report also calls for police child-abuse liaison officers to be appointed.

Court proceedings should not take longer than three months because of the trauma involved, and probation orders requiring medical treatment should be the usual sentence.

Child Sexual Abuse Within the Family (CIBA Foundation, £12.95 and £5.95, Tavistock Publications).

Second express train splits at speed

By Michael Bally, Transport Editor

For the second time in a week a British Rail express train split in two yesterday while carrying passengers at speed. Urgent inquiries are being carried out.

The 10-coach Hereford to London express parted in the middle at 8.10am while passing under a bridge at about 60 mph between Worcester and Evesham, and the rear five coaches were delayed. None of the 150 passengers was seriously hurt, but six suffered cuts and bruises and two were taken to hospital for a check.

On Monday evening a Gloucester to London express split in two while travelling at about 90 mph near Rugby. There were no derailments and no injuries.

For a passenger train to uncouple while running steadily at speed is unusual and mystifying. Modern coaches were used on both trains, with heavy steel "bullock" couplings in widespread international use and with a very good safety record.

Like a Yale lock on a door, the couplings grip automatically when "slammed" together and

Bench dabbled with science, judge declares

A High Court judge yesterday criticized judges and magistrates for "dabbling as amateurs in science".

Lord Justice Goff, sitting in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court with Mr Justice McCullough, allowed a police prosecution appeal against a decision by Colchester magistrates in July 1983, to acquit an Army corporal on a drink-driving charge after they considered medical evidence without the benefit of expert advice.

Corporal Alan Lunn, of Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffordshire, was accused of driving at Bakewell Hill, Colchester, in May last year.

But the magistrates dismissed the case after they studied an extract from a copy of the *British Medical Journal*, which they concluded proved that a pint of beer consumed after Corporal Lunn had stopped driving had put him over the limit.

But the jury, after they studied an extract from a copy of the *British Medical Journal*, which they concluded proved that a pint of beer consumed after Corporal Lunn had stopped driving had put him over the limit.

A social worker who killed the woman with whom her lover lived and stabbed her victim's son, aged four, more than 50 times was yesterday ordered to be detained indefinitely in Broadmoor Hospital.

The Central Criminal Court was told that Annette Dunwell, aged 24, of Wilmot Road, Wood Green, murdered Jennifer Gordon, aged 23, of Mildura Court, Hornsey, because Lloyd Cadogan, aged 26, had refused to leave Miss Gordon and live with Dunwell.

Whitehead was said to have told the police that while he was fishing the boy had looked at him in a funny way and started "giving me a bit of lip".

Asked if he had indecently assaulted the boy, Whitehead said he had taken the boy's trousers and pants down to his knees. "I didn't do anything else," Mr William Hibbert, for the defence, said that Whitehead was educationally subnormal.

The boy then became unconscious and Whitehead began to beat him about the face and head with a fishing rod. He was now blind in the right eye and had ugly scars.

Mr Nutting said it was a

eight-year legal battle to evict a man from Britain's most luxurious hen-hut. A former sailor, Mr James Marsh, aged 58, moved into the hut, measuring 20ft by 15ft, on his smallholding at Pickering, North Yorkshire, in 1976.

He defied the efforts of Ryedale District Council to remove him and installed roof and wall insulation, laid fitted carpets, hung red velvet curtains, and papered the walls.

Last December, after a government inquiry he was given 12 months to move out, and the deadline arrived yesterday.

Mr Paul Duncane, a council planning official, said that action would probably be taken early next week. He said: "Mr Marsh has been given every opportunity to find alternative living accommodation. Now we must prosecute."

He said he filled a plastic container with water to wash away the blood. He could not sweep it away. He cleaned the floor with paper towels and removed blood from the walls with them and a knife.

Council to prosecute man living in hen house

In the case of the Hereford train there was some doubt yesterday whether the uncoupling occurred before or after the derailment. If the latter, the derailment was no doubt the cause of the uncoupling, although buckeyes are so strong they frequently hold a derailed train together.

Trains suffered extensive damage from yesterday's accident, and Western Region predicted last night that the Worcester to Evesham section would remain closed through the weekend.

Brinks-Matt jury fails to reach verdicts

The jury trying three men at the Central Criminal Court involved in the theft of £26 million of gold bullion, platinum, and diamonds, from a Brinks-Matt warehouse at Heathrow airport in November last year, retired to a London hotel for a second night. The jury will return to court today in an attempt to reach a verdict.

Michael McCavay, aged 32, of Beckwith Road, East Dulwich, south-east London; Anthony White, aged 40, of St James Road, Rotherhithe, south-east London; Brian Robinson, aged 40, of Rolling Street, London, have all denied being involved in the raid.

But the magistrates dismissed the case after they studied an extract from a copy of the *British Medical Journal*, which they concluded proved that a pint of beer consumed after Corporal Lunn had stopped driving had put him over the limit.

Asked if he had indecently assaulted the boy, Whitehead said he had taken the boy's trousers and pants down to his knees. "I didn't do anything else," Mr William Hibbert, for the defence, said that Whitehead was educationally subnormal.

The boy then became unconscious and Whitehead began to beat him about the face and head with a fishing rod. He was now blind in the right eye and had ugly scars.

Mr Nutting said it was a

"quite horrific" case. The attack happened near the Earlswood Lakes, where both boys had been fishing.

As the boy aged 10 left the lake, Whitehead asked him where he lived. The boy said he lived at Redhill and Whitehead suggested they walk on together. After walking for a short while, he pushed the boy to the ground, sat on his stomach and pressed his hands around his neck.

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Heath attacks fatalism of 'no other way' and policies of 'cut, cut, cut'

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

In an assault on the Government's economic policies, Mr Edward Heath yesterday deplored the "fatalistic belief that nothing can be done to deal with the problem of massive unemployment".

That fatalism must be overcome, he said. The philosophies which inspired it must be rejected.

He said that although high inflation was a scourge, massive unemployment was the greater threat to the welfare of the individual, the stability of society, the production of future wealth, and the maintenance of Britain's position in the world.

"It leads to rapid increase in crimes of violence and descent into social conflict".

All the main strands of the present criticism of the Government, whether by Conservative or Opposition figures, were woven into the speech. Ministers were charged with timidity, rigidity, and dogmatism as well as fatalism; with fallacious beliefs about the economy and failure to understand people's needs.

The occasion was an address by the former Conservative prime minister to the Peel Society at Drayton Manor, Tamworth, Staffordshire, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Sir Robert Peel's manifesto to the Tamworth electors, in which he announced his belated acceptance of the Reform Act, 1832.

Mr Heath had discovered convenient similarities between

his own and Peel's opinions and careers.

He said: "Peel believed that it

was for the Conservatives to

tread a path... that encouraged

moderate reform and eschewed

the extremism of doctrinaire

radicalism from the left and the

reaction of the Tory ultra on

the right."

As in Peel's time, so now it is the party's duty to preserve all that was best in society, "our freedom, our widespread democracy, rule of law, and our traditional toleration". They must unite the nation and defuse conflict and tensions, lest they engulf the state and destroy liberty.

The speech was one of Mr Heath's occasional reminders that there is a fraction of the Conservative Party that does not acknowledge Mrs Thatcher as its leader, and that its resistance, and his own, may sometimes languish but will not expire.

He was direct using phrasology that Mrs Thatcher dislikes and spurns hers. He said: "What is required today is the pragmatism of Peel, not the dogmatism of 'There is no other way'." Peel believed in securing value for money, but did that not lead him to the view that money should not be spent."

He noted that economic success after the Second World War had been most striking in Federal Germany and Japan, and put that down to their establishment of consensus in managing their economies.

Leading article, page 9

Shelter fears threat to council house repairs

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The Housing Defects Act, which comes into force today to help the owners of certain types of defective homes, is "limited and potentially wasteful", the housing organization, Shelter, has claimed.

It criticizes the Act for not assisting council tenants who make up most of those living in potentially defective homes. According to Shelter, the possible government cuts in housing expenditure next year may result in much-needed repairs to council homes being shelved for lack of money.

The Act provides for assistance to private owners of 22 types of pre-1960 prefabricated reinforced concrete dwellings, including Airey homes. Eligible owners will qualify for a local authority reinstatement grant of up to £14,000, normally covering 90 per cent of the repair costs.

The grant can be refused if the dwelling is a flat or if the work would be uneconomic, in

Patients 'at risk' from drug adverts

Patients could be at risk by the present spate of misleading drug advertisements, medical groups have told Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health.

The British Medical Association and the Pharmaceutical Society have called for immediate action to ensure such advertisements are promptly withdrawn.

Mr Clarke has told the Commons that his officials identified 31 breaches of the advertising regulations last year. None of the drug firms involved was prosecuted.

In a letter to the Minister, Dr John Havard, secretary of the BMA, said: "Changes are needed to prevent the pharmaceutical industry from breaking the regulations so frequently."

A spokesman for the Pharmaceutical Society, which represents individual pharmacists rather than drug companies, confirmed that it had sent a similar letter to Mr Clarke.



Gemma Knight with her family arriving at Heathrow yesterday.

Liver transplant girl returns

Gemma Knight, aged two, returned to Britain yesterday after her liver transplant operation in the United States.

Gemma, from Bracknell, Berks, was flown to Pittsburgh for the operation last February, after a national appeal. She was at the time given six months to live.

The operation had to be performed in America because British surgeons had no experience of the operation, although

some have subsequently been carried out.

More than £400,000 was raised to pay for the trip and the medical bills, which are estimated at about £150,000. Remaining money will be used for research into liver disease.

Gemma's grandmother and other relatives and friends were at Heathrow airport to meet her, her brother Daryle, aged one, and parents, Sharon and Stephen Knight.

Gemma will continue taking anti-rejection drugs and is expected to have to return to Pittsburgh for a check-up in coming months.

BBC looks for fleas to join circus

By Tony Samstag

The BBC has placed a classified advertisement in *The Times* in an attempt to cast a performing flea circus for one of its programmes.

So rare is the human flea, *Pulex irritans*, become in Britain that none of the usual

animal suppliers can help.

Siphonapterists, a word flea experts use to describe their calling, confess that they are puzzled by the evasiveness of the human flea.

The BBC is prepared to pay a

reward of £25 in return for information leading to the recruitment of a suitable cast of fleas. The fleas are to appear in an episode of next year's television series *One by One*, the adventures of a zoo vet, in which a flea circus figures.

£6m US Navy order

Brown Brothers of Edinburgh have won a £6 million order to supply the US Navy with fin stabilizer systems for its warships (Ronald Faux writes).

The stabilizers reduce the roll on a vessel in rough conditions by up to 70 per cent, allowing helicopters and weapons systems to operate more effectively.

The firm, part of Vickers

marine engineering division, was also awarded an option for a further £5 million order. Since 1968 the US Navy has placed orders worth about £60 million with the company.

The stabilizers performed well during the Falklands conflict and have a good reputation with the US Navy, which has the system fitted to 58 PFG/F frigates.

Consumer call for freer information

The National Consumer Council has called for the repeal of the Official Secrets Act and for parts of it to be replaced with a statutory "right to know".

Mr Michael Montague, chairman of the council, said: "The phrase official secrets conjures up a picture of spies, security and surveillance, but what worries us is official secrecy

GLC staff reject Livingstone threat

By Hugh Clayton
Local Government Correspondent

British science is falling seriously behind the main scientific nations and cannot hope to compete because government funding is "nowhere near enough", the past chairman of the Natural Environment Research Council (Nerc) said yesterday.

"I do not think we can let our public, our politicians, our ministers assume that the present level of resources will give the United Kingdom or Nerc a position in which we can compete internationally and hold up our heads," Sir Hermann Bondi said.

"Science is becoming more sophisticated and more demanding all the time. Many of our partners, friends and competitors have realized this and, though they are all affected by the recession, they are increasing the resources put at the disposal of science at a not inconsiderable rate."

The council is involved in areas including biotechnology and environmental pollution research, geological surveys and ocean drilling.

Sir Hermann's comments were published yesterday in the council's annual report for 1984.

He gave a warning that if funding was not increased Britain's standing in the international science community would be diminished.

There was, he said, a real lack of strategic research

Council opens its files to public inspection

From Our Correspondent, Bradford

Open government became a reality at noon yesterday in Bradford, West Yorkshire, when the veil of secrecy was lifted from most local council documents.

Any member of the public can now ask to see or obtain photocopies of almost all the papers in the file for any item which is to be considered in public by a council committee.

The only exceptions are documents that are genuinely confidential or which might prejudice negotiations or legal proceedings.

Bradford was the first local authority in the country to change its standing orders to enable the public to have access to information about council business in advance of decisions being taken. Its new policy is almost identical to the proposals of the Local Government (Access to Information) Bill being promoted by Mr Robin Square, Conservative MP.

If any officer decides a particular document should be kept confidential, a member of the public has the right of appeal.

PARLIAMENT NOVEMBER 30 1984

Licensing laws

Home Office awaiting Scottish report before contemplating changes

COMMONS

There was no irremovable obstacle to changing the law on opening hours of licensed premises, and the case for change had many sympathisers in the Government but the Government had no immediate plan to introduce legislation, Mr David Melzer, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said in the Commons.

He was replying to a debate on a motion, later withdrawn, that the liquor licensing laws in England and Wales should be revised. He said that the reasons for not introducing immediate legislation were the need to be satisfied that longer, more flexible hours would have no harmful consequences and that there was, as yet, no obvious agreement on what system of flexibility should be adopted.

Mr Robert Hayward (Kingswood, C) in moving the motion, said present legislation for England and Wales was based on the assumption that the state knew what was best for individuals rather than allowing them a choice. What was needed was flexible opening hours coupled with a programme of education, starting at an early age, about the dangers of alcohol.

Sir Bernard Braine said that was the dilemma and they had to keep a balance. Alcohol was a pleasant adjunct to living and he was not a fan of total prohibition. He hardly ever read a file including those of people convicted of murder in which the influence of alcohol was not pointed out as a material factor in relation to the crime. He was deeply troubled by the number of crimes of violence in drink.

The forecast that longer opening hours would result in a dramatic increase in drunkenness and drink-related offences proved inaccurate.

But he would add a note of caution. It would be dangerous to assume that the reduction of drunkenness was attributable directly to the change in the licensing laws. There might well be other factors at work. It was not enough to say there was need to encourage.

Excessive drinking was the common thread which ran through the commission of crime, violence, marital break-up, non-accidental injuries to children, and death and injury on the roads.

Mr John Rynne (Blyth Valley, Lab): Why should not law-abiding people who drink in moderation and for social pleasure be entitled to drink without being inhibited by the licensing laws would make any difference?

Sir Bernard Braine said that was why he had licensing laws which had been admired all over the world.

The best way to help the licensee was to stop the proliferation of selling outlets where no restraint could be exercised. He was in favour of closing houses and against the proliferation of outlets, the placing of licences on the impulse-buying shelves of supermarkets.

There was no evidence whatever to suppose that the introduction of more flexible drinking hours in England and Wales would reduce the massive human and economic cost of alcohol abuse. The most that could be said in favour of liberalisation was that it would remove a minor inconvenience to the drinking public and foreign tourists and brewers would make larger profits.

Mr John Rynne said he supported a sensible move for reform of the licensing laws based on common sense and judgment and he deplored hysterical appeals made by other people obsessed with megalomaniac spoiling the fun of other people.

Mr James Couckman (Gillingham, C), said he was managing director of his family's licensed trade company

and he had no objection to any changes in the licensing laws.

Mr Clive Soley (Hammersmith, Lab) for the Opposition, said social behaviour after a certain amount of alcohol was not a significant factor in the commission of crime.

Mr Soley said that the influence of alcohol was not pointed out as a material factor in relation to the crime.

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Solidarity priest died of suffocation and not from beating, report says

Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the pro-Solidarity priest allegedly kidnapped and killed by secret policemen, died of suffocation and was not beaten to death, according to the results of a post-mortem examination due to be released to the Polish public last night.

The findings may give counsel for the three main accused a chance of having the murder charge reduced. If it can be shown that the priest suffocated because he was put in the boot of the getaway car, soon after being kidnapped on the Torun road on October 19, then lawyers could argue that the three policemen should not be tried for murder under Article 148 of the penal code, but for taking part in a fight which led to the death of the priest.

The latter provides for a minimum one-year sentence under Article 158 (Paragraph 3), compared to the possible death sentence on murder charges.

However, there is only a slim

chance of this happening. First, the prosecution will argue that every stage of the kidnap showed that the policeman intended to murder the priest.

Second, the accused are facing a range of other charges – depriving the priest of freedom; using violence; a previous kidnap attempt on the priest and the ill-treatment of his priest's driver.

Third, the accused have still not engaged defence counsel, even though proceedings will probably begin soon.

It has taken almost a month to prepare the post-mortem report, under the supervision of Professor Maria Byda. The results are cautious, not drawing any large conclusions but rather ruling out some possible causes of death and quashing rumours.

The priest was not, as was at first rumoured, tortured to death or even shot. He was beaten. The doctors said he was dead before being dropped into a reservoir.

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The church hierarchy was briefed on the latest developments in the Popieluszko investigation during a church-state session on Thursday and was given the final results of the post-mortem examination.

The Patriotic Front for National Reconciliation, a state-sponsored group which tries to promote dialogue between the communist authorities and non-communist but sympathetic groupings, has also given a statement about the manner of the priest's death.

The trial will be open to the Western press, though if it is held in Torun there will be little space in the court-room for reporters. The accused were said to have been "cocky" during interrogation.

On Wednesday night General Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, told reporters that the prospect of a trial ending in a death sentence might prod the accused into revealing who stood behind them. The search for the instigators was continuing.

From Christopher Thomas, St George's Grenada

It must be the most political football in the world.

The Communists of Cuba started it, the capitalists of America are finishing it. The pro-Cubans in Grenada want to name it after Maurice Bishop, the murdered Marxist prime minister. Fervent pro-Americans favour calling it Ronald Reagan International Airport.

It sits in incongruous splendour on a finger of land in the south-west of the island, a glittering symbol of polarized politics, a model of waste in an island of need.

General election candidates of various political extremes have used it as an example of what wondrous things could be achieved under their respective systems. It is Grenada's pride and joy, a sort of 10,000 ft symbol of national manhood.

The airport was named with deliberate neutrality by the Point Salines International Airport. It is in a smart section of the island, where well-do-do businessmen and prosperous expatriates live in palm-fringed houses beside the sea.

They do not mind the noise of the occasional jet; it sounds like the jingle of cash registers.

The terminal buildings, three stories high, are not yet completed, so passengers are directed into a wooden hut – a former barracks for Cuban work crews.

It has been painted a smart white, and seems perfectly adequate for the trickle of tourists.

Competing ideologies lay claim to Grenada airport

From Christopher Thomas, St George's Grenada

people who pass in and out. The main terminal casts its long shadow over the hut, emphasizing the absurd contrast between the airport Grenada needs and the one it has got.

The annual cost of operating the airport is probably about \$10m (£3m). The gross domestic product of Grenada is \$100m. The American contribution to financing the airport is about \$50m.

One commercial jet a week lands there, a BWIA DC 10 from Florida en route to other more populous destinations. If it disgorged all its passengers in Grenada there would not be enough hotel space to go around, which makes it patently absurd to suggest the airport is necessary to boost the tourist industry.

According to official figures the island has 500 hotel beds, 200 of which are occupied by US Army personnel.

President Reagan said after the invasion that the airport would not be completed with the full runway, which he said was intended for military use by the Cubans.

He changed his mind, and Grenadian politicians of all hues say it is now the envy of the Caribbean.

The Grenada Hotel Association wants the island to go up-market, not mass market. The overriding motive is to keep out the chain hotels, which would squeeze the Grenadian hotel owners.

Law Report December 1 1984 Court of Appeal

Association tenants not protected

Clays Lane Housing Cooperative Ltd v Patrick and Another
Before Lord Justice Stephen, Lord Justice Fox and Lord Justice Purcell

[Judgment delivered November 21]

Tenancies granted by housing associations were removed from protection given by the Rent Act 1977 and the Housing Act 1980 because landlords regarded the associations as responsible landlords who would treat their tenants fairly. In practice tenants who complied with their obligations could expect a high degree of security and if they were in breach of their obligations they would be treated fairly. But that position was not the consequence of the legal obligations imposed on the associations.

The Court of Appeal, in a reserved judgment, allowed an appeal by Clays Lane Housing Cooperative Ltd against an order dated December 20, 1983, of Judge Dobry, QC, at Bow County Court, whereby he allowed the appeal of the defendant member of the cooperative, Mrs Beverley Patrick, against the order of Mrs Registrar Vickers dated October 17, 1983, that the cooperative should recover possession against the defendant members, Miss Patrick and Mr T G Garraway, within 28 days and £260.90 for arrears of rent and mesne profits and costs and ordered a new trial.

Revoking community service order

Regina v Grays Justices & Another, Ex parte Aldwinckle

A magistrate's court had the jurisdiction under section 17(2) of the Powers of Criminal Courts Act 1973 to revoke a community service order (where the court was acting for the petty sessions area specified in the order) or revoke the order and deal with the offender as if the order had not been made, where an

application had been made by the offender or the relevant officer (that is, a probation officer appointed for the specified in the order).

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice McCullough) so held on November 19 granting an order of mandamus ordering Chelmsford Crown Court to bear the applicant's appeal from the Grays Justices who on December 21, 1983, revoked the

defendant was accordingly void and of no effect.

HIS LORDSHIP said that whenever a trustee of property wished to empower another to execute a transfer of the property on his behalf, he should always execute a power of attorney under section 9 of the 1971 Act. The fact that the trustee was also a beneficial owner was neither here nor there.

The passage in the supplement to p280 of *Ennals on Title*, 17th edition (1978) to the effect that a trustee who was also a beneficial owner could use a general power of attorney was wrong.

The provisions of section 10(2) of the Land Registration Act 1925 could not be excluded by provisions to that effect in a contract for the sale of land.

Judge John Finlay, QC, sitting as a judge of the Chancery Division so held on November 16, granting the plaintiffs' declaration that the defendant had not yet shown good title to property, and the plaintiffs had contracted to buy it from him and that a notice to complete served by

the applicant's community service order of 180 hours imposed on September 7, 1983, and substituted a sentence of six weeks imprisonment.

LORD JUSTICE ROBERT GOFF said that the words "any such application" in section 17(2) meant on the application of the offender or the relevant officer, and did not refer to an application to extend the period of 12 months mentioned in section 17(1).

Moreover, in section 14(3) it was provided that the court imposing a community service order was required to explain to the offender that the court under section 17 had the power to review the order on the offender's application or that of a probation officer.

Time limits must be observed

Regina v Carter, Ex parte Lipson

Mr Justice Hodgson, sitting in the Queen's Bench Division on November 29, said that would-be litigants ought not to disregard the three-month time limit laid down for moving for judicial review and said that the court required sound reasons before it would extend the period.

The statute referred to a right of reentry or forfeiture but, for present purposes, the issue could be stated as whether clause 7(b) constituted a provision for forfeiture on non-payment of rent.

In the present case what was granted was a weekly tenancy. That could, at common law, be determined on one week's notice. Under clause 2, the contractual period of notice was not less than four weeks.

That was necessary to comply with section 5 of the Protection from Eviction Act 1977. All that clause 7 did was to restrict the cooperative's power to give such notice to the events specified in clause 7(b).

Thus, here the critical matter was the nature of the tenant members' estate in the land. All that those members had under the tenancy agreement was a weekly tenancy.

Clause 7 so far from entrenching on the rights of the members to termination, otherwise enabling them to terminate either under the general law or the agreement itself merely altered them in favour of the members. The position came nowhere near forfeiture.

The agreement granted what it purported to grant, namely, a weekly tenancy determinable in specified events upon four weeks notice. That was not a case of forfeiture.

Solicitors: Collyer-Bristow, Bowring & Co.

Legal aid fund liability in hopeless appeals

Wilkin v Smith

Where hopeless appeals failed and questions arose as to the liability of the legal aid fund, it was for consideration whether counsel and solicitors might not have the full facts, the Master of the Rolls said in the Court of Appeal sitting with Lord Justice Oliver and Mr Justice Neill on November 15.

The plaintiff, who was legally aided, appealed unsuccessfully against Mr Justice Talbot's decision of his motor accident personal injuries claim on January 25, 1983. Giving the leading judgment Lord Justice Oliver said it was a hopeless appeal.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS added that he was concerned about the legal aid fund and wondered whether counsel and solicitors might not have got the full facts.

It was a very serious matter for public money to be used and private money on the other side in hopeless appeals. It was a matter for the legal aid authorities to look at if they wished.

An order nisi for costs against the Legal Aid Fund was made under section 13 of the Legal-Aid Act 1974.

Justice

THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 1 1984

OVERSEAS NEWS 5

Gulf states form rapid deployment force

Kuwait, (Reuters) - Six conservative Arab Gulf states have formed a joint defence force to react quickly to any attack from outside the region, Gulf officials said.

Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah, Kuwait's Foreign Minister, told a news conference on Thursday that Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, all members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, had contributed contingents.

The minister, speaking at the end of a three-day conference of council heads of state, said the force was a temporary expedient and its mandate would eventually be reviewed.

He gave no details of its size, structure or capabilities, but authoritative Kuwaiti sources said that at a meeting earlier this year defence ministers agreed to set up a two-brigade unit under the command of a senior Saudi officer.

Mr Abdullah Bishara, the council's secretary-general, told reporters: "The force is alive and well. Its significance is more political and symbolic than military."

The number of men was not as important as the fact that the new force could move fast in an emergency, Mr Bishara added.

The creation of what is in essence a rapid redeployment force underlines the deep concern of the Gulf states at the continuing war between Iraq and Iran and their fears that the conflict could spill over into the Arabian Peninsula.

The six countries, which have relatively small populations, have already held joint exercises and spend substantial proportions of their revenues from oil on advanced military equipment from Europe and the United States.

The four-year-old Gulf war dominated the summit and the meeting ended with an announcement that the heads of state had drafted ideas to promote a dialogue between the communist and non-communist resistance to Heng Samrin.

Japan does not officially recognize the Phnom Penh Government.

One Asian diplomat said Mr Sakuruchi's visit could be taken as tacit acceptance of the Heng Samrin Government.

Asian leaders are fighting a

Women fly out after New Caledonia killing

Koumac, New Caledonia (AFP Reuter) - Dozens of European women and children were being evacuated by air yesterday from northern New Caledonia, where a European man was killed on Thursday in a gunfight with Melanesian separatists.

It was not clear whether French officials had ordered the evacuation towards Noumea, which has been largely unaffected by the past two weeks of separatist violence.

One woman said men had been given an order to evacuate

their wives and children, but she did not say where the order had come from. Two Canadian mine workers, however, appeared to indicate the evacuation was voluntary.

The evacuation, by small aircraft from a dirt airstrip at the north-western tip of the island, came after a clash in which a man of French descent, Emile Mezire, was killed and several people wounded.

Confusion remained as to how the incident began. According to one version, it happened after Kanaks, or indigenous Melanesians, became angered by a rumour that Europeans had taken four Kanaks prisoner.

Another European, Mr Eugène Guérin, who is in his seventies, was severely beaten on Thursday and left for dead by his Kanak assailants.

Koumac residents said the attack was the beginning of a big confrontation.

New Caledonia's National Assembly president, Mr Dick Uekwele, flew to Paris yesterday to urge President Mitterrand to take firmer action against militants.

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Asian leaders are fighting a

Cambodia trip angers Asean

From David Watts, Tokyo

January as president of the Parliamentarians' League for Japan-Vietnam Friendship, with five other members of the Japanese Diet.

The Asean countries are concerned that Mr Sakuruchi's visit will be interpreted by Phnom Penh as endorsement of President Heng Samrin.

Japan does not officially recognize the Phnom Penh Government.

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Asean leaders are fighting a

Sharon libel trial told of secret Israeli report

New York (Reuters) - A Time magazine reporter, testifying in a \$50m (£42m) libel suit, admitted yesterday he was never explicitly told that a key allegation against Mr Ariel Sharon discussed the need for revenge with the family of assassinated Lebanese President Bachir Gemayel.

Professor Lu Zun'er said his team dug up a nearly complete skeleton of *homo erectus*, or Peking Man, in September.

Researchers remembered the earlier bones and found them in sacks into which they had been thrown. The two sets were discovered near each other in Lianming province in the northeast of the country.

Professor Lu told the *Chinese Daily* that the 1974 excavations were carried out hastily by non-specialists during the Cultural Revolution, which left academic research in chaos. Quarrymen threw away many bones as worthless.

Chinese scientists say the latest find is valuable for research into these early men, who walked upright and used fire and tools between 200,000 and a million years ago.

The story cited a secret appendix to an official Israeli inquiry as saying that Mr Sharon discussed the need for revenge with the family of assassinated Lebanese President Bachir Gemayel.

David Halevy, the *Time* reporter who supplied the information for the key paragraph in the story, told the court yesterday his sources never explicitly said that the secret appendix contained such a charge.

Mr Sharon's lawyer, Mr Milton Gould, demanded: "You wondered where it was and you said it must be in Appendix B (the secret appendix)."

Mr Halevy replied: "We reached a conclusion. There is a charge against General Sharon between the lines . . . and that it is probably in Appendix B."

He said he checked with an Israeli government official who had

Tamil rebels kill 80 in attacks on farms in northern Sri Lanka

From Donovan Moldrich, Colombo

At least 80 Sinhalese civilians settled on two farms for former prisoners at Padaviya in the North-Central Province were killed early yesterday morning by a large force of Tamil separatists. Troops rushed to the spot by helicopter killed 30 rebels later in the day.

Dollar Farm and Kent Farm are resettlement schemes for discharged prisoners or those about to be discharged. According to Government sources 60 former prisoners were killed on Dollar Farm and 20 on Kent Farm, where they had half-acre homesteads.

Dr Wickrama Weerasooria, the Government spokesman, described the situation in Sri Lanka as "very, very serious". He said the Government has been expecting attacks by the rebels, especially in the North, on the basis of reports from the National Intelligence Bureau.

Weerasooria said that on Thursday rebels had attacked and demolished a building which had been used earlier by

the police at Kankeganturai in the extreme north of the island, but the police had evacuated the building a couple of days earlier and moved to another location.

He added that the National Intelligence Bureau had informed the Government that 4,000 Tamil rebels who had come or were coming from Tamil Nadu in India would attempt more attacks like the one on Chavakkacheri police station on November 21, in which 27 policemen and three civilians were killed.

The Government announced yesterday evening that a six-hour curfew would be in force from 10 pm. The state radio said it was being imposed as a precautionary measure, to head off possible retaliation by Sinhalese against Tamils in the Colombo area.

In Jaffna and two other northern districts, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu, the curfew became operative at 4 pm yesterday, while in two other northern districts, Mannar and

Eight years ago.

The deaths of 80 civilians represent the biggest loss of life inflicted by the rebels in any single incident since the campaign for a separate state began

Salvadorean rebels stress need for peace

Ayagual, El Salvador (AP) - Salvadorean guerrilla delegates and government representatives began a second round of peace talks here yesterday with a guerrilla leader calling for intensified negotiations to end the civil war as soon as possible.

The first round of exploratory talks on October 15 ended with both sides agreeing on only one item yesterday's meeting. Attending the first session were President Duarte and Señor Guillermo Ungo, head of the left-wing rebels' political front, the FDR.

Yesterday's meeting at a religious retreat in Government-held territory involved lower-level delegates who, according to their leaders, would concentrate on possible prisoner exchanges and treatment of the wounded in the war, which has claimed 59,000 lives since it began five years ago.

Soviet was tight at Ayagual, 12 miles south of the capital, at the request of the rebels. Hundreds of soldiers in battle gear patrolled the grounds of the Roman Catholic retreat.

A guerrilla representative in the crowd of about 1,500 outside the talks distributed what he said was his side's answer to an earlier government offer of amnesty and guarantees of safety in exchange for the rebels' incorporation into the democratic process.

The document bore the seal of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front and the Democratic Revolutionary Front, the two left-wing umbrella groups attending the talks. Some similar documents passed out at the first round of talks turned out to be counterfeits.

Señor Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes, a member of the Government delegation, said on arrival: "We are expecting an answer from the FMLN-FDR to know how they are going to respond to our peace offer."

OSAN SALVADOR: A Salvadorean Army officer accused of organizing the 1984 killings of two United States labour advisers and the head of the country's land redistribution programme has been discharged from the Army without pension, according to a aide of president Duarte (New York Times reports).

President Duarte ordered the discharge on Wednesday after consulting the Army High Command. The officer, Lieutenant López Sibrian, is officially being discharged for unspecified "military reasons."

Asked if the murder case charges against the lieutenant had affected the decision, the aide said: "It may be that López Sibrian was no longer suited to the institution of the armed forces."

The dismissal comes barely a week after the Salvadorean Supreme Court cleared Lieutenant López Sibrian of charges in the case, effectively ending all legal action against him.

Soviet gloom over US policy

From Richard Owen, Moscow

A Soviet newspaper struck a gloomy note over the prospects for Soviet-American arms talks yesterday, declaring that American policy remained "negative and inconsistent".

But most Soviet officials appear to be moderately optimistic, and Moscow yesterday greeted the successful conclusion of a new round of Soviet-American talks on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Echoing largely positive Soviet comment since the forthcoming Geneva meeting between Mr George Shultz and Mr Andrei Gromyko, was announced just over a week

Cyprus Turks offer breakthrough hope

From Zoriana Pysarsky, New York

In a dramatic move which could break the diplomatic impasse on efforts to end the division of Cyprus, the Turkish Cypriot community has offered important concessions and effectively left the ball in the Greek Cypriot court.

Mr Rauf Denktas, the leader of the Turkish Cypriots, announced on Thursday that his side was in complete agreement with the peace plan put forward by Scór Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General. The move came only four days into the third round of the UN-sponsored proximity talks on Cyprus.

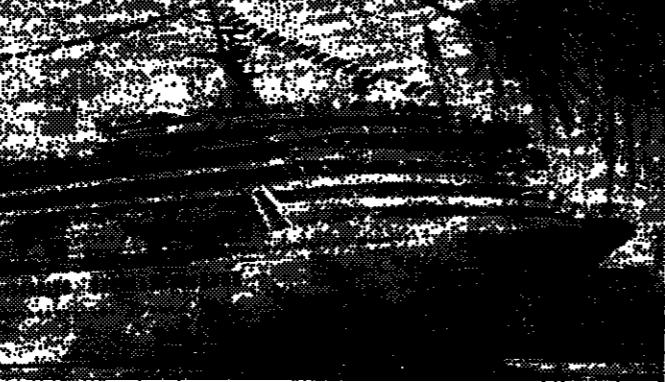
During the 10-day recess requested by President Kyprianou, who has flown home for consultations with the Cypriot internal political parties and Athens, the Greek Cypriots must decide whether to brush aside the Turkish Cypriot overtures as insincere and risk being called intransigent, or accept proposals that require a big political sacrifice.

The Turkish Cypriots are understood to have agreed to retain 29 per cent of the 37 per cent of Cyprus under occupation and have given up the idea of a rotating presidency.

They would also be bound in the first stage of the three-phase agreement to hand over the east coast resort town of Varosha and six other zones to a temporary UN administration for Greek-Cypriot resettlement.

Nevertheless, the main compromise must come from the Greek Cypriots who would have to relinquish full control of their internationally-recognized government to enter a transitional arrangement with the Turks.

Perhaps the most emotive issue for the Greek Cypriots is the Secretary-General's plan for a timetable for withdrawal of Turkish troops, rather than a



Florida princess: The British cruise liner Royal Princess arriving in the port of Miami on Thursday en route to Los Angeles, its base for cruises to Hong Kong.

Malta accuses Britain over harbour wrecks

From Our Correspondent, Valletta

Malta's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has accused Britain of wanting "to take the Maltese people for a ride". A statement referred to unexploded bombs and wrecks in Malta's harbour which has become a contentious issue between the countries. In a note from Britain published here on Thursday, an offer was made to clear the bombs and wrecks.

The dismissal comes barely a week after the Salvadorean Supreme Court cleared Lieutenant López Sibrian of charges in the case, effectively ending all legal action against him.

Asked if the murder case charges against the lieutenant had affected the decision, the aide said: "It may be that López Sibrian was no longer suited to the institution of the armed forces."

The paper said several of Washington's policies can counter such optimism, including the "comprehensive strategic programme" for the 1980s. This envisaged accelerated deployment of the new systems of strategic offensive weapons, Sovetskaya Rossiya said. The American "star wars" programme was a "further obstacle on the road to a Soviet-American agreement. So far there are few signs which give rise to hope," the paper concluded.

However, both Soviet and



Mrs Thatcher adjusts her headphones while answering reporters at a joint press conference with President Mitterrand in Paris yesterday

Thatcher vetoes United States of Europe

From Diana Geddies, Avignon

Mrs Margaret Thatcher effectively ruled out last night the possibility of a future United States of Europe, but said that Britain was nevertheless a strong advocate of a more united Europe.

Speaking at a dinner to mark the opening of the third biennial conference of the Franco-British Council in Avignon, she said that several distinguished Europeans had advised her to give a speech on the theme of European union.

"Unhappily, those who advised the subject did not cast much light on its meaning. I think I rather shocked them by replying that I would need to know what is meant by it before I could tell whether I was for it or against it."

"Let me say at once: I do not

believe that we shall ever have a United States of Europe in the same way that there is a United States of America. The whole history of Europe is too different."

"I do believe, however, that for nations of the European Community freely to work together and to strengthen their cooperation is just as worthy a purpose. But to submerge their identity and variety would be contrary to the instincts of our peoples and therefore could not bear fruit."

Nevertheless, Britain wanted a more united Europe, and by that it means "greater unity of the Common Market, of community action in world affairs, of purpose and action in tackling unemployment and the other problems of our time, and

greater unity in the development and application of new technology."

"These goals are attainable and I believe it is better to work for the substance than to talk of the shadow. There have been so many reports telling us what to do, so many theoretical models. Another report is no substitute for practical progress," she commented in an apparent side swipe at the Dooge and Faure committees which are currently drawing up reports on the future development of the Community.

Mrs Thatcher criticized the Community for having failed to achieve the goal of a truly free market, as laid down in the original Treaty of Rome. "The Community's founding fathers would be horrified by the

labyrinth of its bureaucratic regulations which entwine us like Gulliver pinned down by the Little men of Lilliput," she said.

The Community was formed to expand trade, not to protect home markets. It was conceived as an outward looking body, not one obsessed with the minutiae of its internal affairs.

Mrs Thatcher went on to give two examples of that: "Why cannot we make it as cheap for our citizens to travel by air within their own continent as they can to other continents? Why cannot it be as easy for German businessmen to take out insurance direct at Lloyd's of London as it is for the British motorist to buy German cars?"

The emphasis on breaking

Fruitless trip by FitzGerald

From Peter Nichols

Rome

The overriding impression left by Dr Garret FitzGerald's flying visit here for last minute talks about the Dublin summit is that they left the situation unchanged.

Italian officials pointed out that the main object of his meetings with Signor Bettino Craxi, the Prime Minister, and Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Foreign Minister, was to hear the Italian view at first hand on the obstacles threatening agreement over the Community's enlargement.

He could hardly have come here expecting a shift in the Italian position on wine, which is one of the biggest of these obstacles. "If you ask me," was one authoritative comment: "whether fresh light emerged after these talks, I can only answer no."

Dr FitzGerald would now, nevertheless, have a clearer picture of how the Italian Government felt the summit next week should be conducted.

New money needed to break EEC budget deadlock

From Ian Murray, Brussels

All but about £30m of the EEC's available money next year has been spent, budget ministers by Dr Garret FitzGerald's flying visit here for last minute talks about the Dublin summit is that they left the situation unchanged.

Ministers drew up a budget of about £15,600m, which they admitted was probably about £750m less than will be needed to fund farm spending for the whole of next year.

The budget was also about £1,500m less than had been asked for by the parliament, which is due to give a second reading to the figures in a fortnight's time.

The council agreed with rapid speed that it could not accept Parliament's case that budget needed to be big enough to pay for everything, including the rebates to Britain and West Germany. All it was prepared to do was to write in what Mr Ian Stewart, the British Minister, called "phantom figures", showing that it was prepared to

find and pay the money in due course.

The Parliament had made great play with the fact that the budget was only enough to pay for the first 10 "months" of the Community spending this year. The Council, however, believed that at worst there would be a three-week shortfall, which is only seven days worse than last year.

The argument is likely to prove irrelevant, since Parliament is determined either to reject the budget or to pass one which exceeds the legal limit in an attempt to increase its power in the Community.

If that happens, money will have to be provided monthly, with member states being asked to provide 12 regular instalments, equivalent to exactly one-twelfth of this year's total budget. That would mean payments would be almost identical to this year, when the budget also reached the legal ceiling.

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find the money in due course.

• HEALTH MOVE: The EEC is set to extend its competence to cover some health matters, a subject included in the Treaty of Rome.

The only way out of the deadlock will be to find new

Gibraltar opposition rejects deal

From Richard Wizle, Madrid

Gibraltar's Opposition will not be bound by the Anglo-Spanish declaration on the future of the Rock, according to Mr Cephas Msipa, its leader.

His Socialist Labour Party, which has seven members in the House of Assembly to the eight of the party of Sir Joshua Hassan, the Chief Minister, is totally opposed to Britain's promise to negotiate a sovereign status with Spain, he said.

He forecast a struggle in the assembly, and said that if his party won control in a by-election "we would disown the agreement".

"An attempt is being made now to sell us this agreement by saying that it is only a public relations exercise so as to get Spain's Foreign Minister off the hook because of EEC entry," Mr Bossano said. "But all that is in conflict with Spanish interpretations and our own analysis."

The agreement, he said, would oblige the 20,000 Gibraltarians to make disproportionate sacrifices because of the threat from some five million job seekers in southern Spain.

Mr Bossano, who is also secretary of the Gibraltar Transport and General Workers' Union, promised to protect the jobs in Gibraltar of Moroccans, who formed one third of union membership.

Games guard

Los Angeles (Reuter) - John Blackwell, aged 38, pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity to charges of following a busload of foreign athletes at the Los Angeles Olympic Games in a car carrying explosives. Police quoted him as saying: "I feel it was my patriotic duty to protect Olympic athletes."

Final link between two Harare parties broken

From Jan Raath, Harare

The last link of conciliation between Zimbabwe's two main political parties has been broken, with the resignation this week of the opposition Zanu party of Mr Cephas Msipa. He handed in his resignation on Wednesday, thereby relinquishing his position as secretary-general.

On November 12, he and Mr John Nkomo were dismissed for their positions as Cabinet ministers in the wake of accusations by Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, that Zanu was behind political assassinations.

He did not plan to join the ruling party and would vote in the coming general election for the individual who he believed would best represent his constituency.

Mr Msipa, a faithful lieutenant of Mr Nkomo for the last 20 years, was a passionate believer in unity.

In an interview with *The Times* yesterday, Mr Msipa said he had lied his political hopes on the easing of tensions between the two bitterly opposed parties. However, events in recent weeks had ruined all chance of that.

He did not plan to join the ruling party and would vote in the coming general election for the individual who he believed would best represent his constituency.

Mr Msipa, a faithful lieutenant of Mr Nkomo for the last 20 years, was a passionate believer in unity.

Correction:

The Alexandra Column (Letter from Leningrad, November 26) commemorated Tsar Alexander I, not Alexander II, as suggested.

Peru's conflict in the Andes

By Colin Harding

As many as 2,000 people have disappeared in Peru's guerrilla war zone since the armed forces were sent to combat the Maoist Shining Path rebels almost two years ago.

The estimate was given to *The Times* by Mr Pablo Rojas, secretary of the Peruvian National Human Rights Commission, an independent, church-backed organization.

When he attends next month's session of the UN Working Group on Forced Disappearance in Geneva, Mr Rojas will present documentary evidence of a further 84 cases, bringing to 920 the total put in the hands of the UN body by the commission.

Establishing full details of a "disappearance" in the military-controlled Ayacucho region of the south-central Andes is now easy matter, Mr Rojas said. Relatives are often too frightened of what might happen to them to press the case, and the security forces invariably deny all knowledge.

Enough cases have been documented, however, for a

Reporter expelled by Chile for 'false story'

SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

Becher's powder

Top national hunt jockeys are riding higher in the saddle. A new herbal diet from Canada keeps their weight down, and makes them feel wonderful at the same time. "It puts you right on top of the world," enthuses Charlie Mann, who once jumped Becher's Brook with no hands after accidentally losing his reins and now acts as distributor for the wonder herbs. His clients include leading riders Peter Scudamore and John Francome.

Keeping up

Robert Walters set off yesterday to become world champion of the great playground sport of Keep-Uppsy, the art of juggling a football without letting it touch the ground or your hands. For all I know he is still at it. The record is 12 hours, 15 minutes.

Postage stamp

The island of Nukulaelae, Tuvalu has produced four cricketing stamps to delight philatelists and enrage cricketers. Yorkshiremen Godfrey Evans for a dollar is fair enough but Nukulaelae goes on to offer David Baulstroth at 30 cents, Geoffrey Boycott at 15 and Brian Close, a snip at 5 cents.

Shot line

BT is imploring the shooting community to stop shooting telephone lines. In the Edinburgh area alone, shotgun damage has been estimated at £2,000 a year. Michael Miller, a Telecom engineer, reckons half the repairs he makes around Taunton and Yeovil are caused by gunshot. It takes only a slight graze from a stray pellet to wreak havoc with the complicated spaghetti of wires inside a telephone cable, and a repair involves the replacement of countless yards of the stuff. Organised shoots are the worst offenders.

Own goal

Last July, a thief serving two years for armed robbery escaped from prison in North Rhine-Westphalia. This season, playing a game of amateur football, he was recognised by a spectator policeman. His sudden burst of speed impressed colleagues, but it was not enough, and the fellow was eventually caught.

Noble pair

Mary Peters and Barry McGuigan could be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. The idea of honouring the Northern Irish pair comes from Tom Pendry, chairman of the Labour Party Sports Group. "They have done more to bring young people together than all the politicians", he says.

Back-handed

Tennis player Andrea Jaeger, a Wimbledon finalist at 18, is studying natural science in Florida. A right hand injury which has kept her off the courts, prevents her from writing. She is said to be submitting essays scrawled in a devastatingly shaky left hand.

Fever pitch

A recent "friendly" fixture between two French football clubs was finally brought under control by a blast of tears. One player and one spectator went to hospital. The match between Barbezou and Portugais was abandoned after a brawl involving players, officials and about 50 spectators. It started after the referee sent two players off - in an attempt to calm things down.

• Quote of the Week: snooker player Tony Meo, on his defeat by Steve Davis. "I've been beaten by a supernatural person."

Ripley yarns

Rugby's Andy Ripley has a book coming out in the spring. The title has been the subject of an animated exchange. He wanted to call it *Andy Ripley's Rubbish*, making use of the Empsonian ambiguity of the apostrophe S, which can be read as a verb or as a possessive. His publishers counter-proposed *Ruck off, Ripley*. Ripley turned this down, on grounds of excessive subtlety. He then suggested a combination of two elements of traditional bestselling genre, and offered *Adolf Hitler's Book of Cats*. The compromise will (probably) be *Ripley's Rugby Rubbish*. No fears about his loss of amateur status though; Ripley says the book isn't worth going pro for. Royalties to charity.

BARRY FANTONI



No excuse now for direct rule

by Enoch Powell

The purpose for which direct rule was imposed on Northern Ireland in 1972 and renewed thereafter, year by year down to the present, was to hold the ring while operations were in progress to take Ulster out of the United Kingdom into some form of all-Ireland state. An end to those operations has now been solemnly declared, with the full authority of the Prime Minister and Her Majesty's Government, by the statements made at and after the Chequers conference.

Hereafter direct rule serves no purpose, open or clandestine. Any reason which previously existed for subjecting this province to a regime that sets it apart from the rest of our country and deprives us of democratic rights which our fellow citizens all possess has disappeared.

There is no reason why those environmental functions which local councils exercise elsewhere should not be transferred forthwith to the district councils in Ulster, to be exercised by them severally or jointly. No disturbance need result for the civil servants who efficiently and industriously administer those services. As in Great Britain legislative principles would be laid down by Parliament. Moreover the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, in his supervisory capacity, would have powers to act in default should any council be manifestly failing down on its statutory process or behaving unconsciously towards any section of the local community.

Parliament would gain in efficiency by legislating for Ulster at the same time as for

Great Britain, and the representatives of this province would take their fair share in the formative stages of the legislative process, instead of having to sit by with folded hands waiting for a carbon copy, unamendable, to be imposed on Ulster.

Now that "reunification exercise", as a minister once inaccurately called it in my hearing, has been terminated the Northern Ireland Office can become just like any other department of state, leading the administration of which it is an integral part and staffed by civil servants whose career opportunities elsewhere in the UK bring wider and more varied experience to bear upon the government of their native province. The end of direct rule means the end of Stormont Castle and the start of a new-style Northern Ireland Office.

The most damaging aspect of direct rule is the most difficult to eradicate. It is the "alienation" - that word is irresistibly fashionable - of the people and electorate of Ulster from the political process of the United Kingdom.

Party politics of the UK are the political process of our own nation, the nation to which we proudly belong. In the longer term we cannot accept the banishment from that process that was entailed upon us by direct rule and by our perception, through all the years since 1972 that the British political parties - the Conservative Party of Heath no less than the Labour Party of Wilson - really

wanted to get rid of us and were working towards that by whatever means they could.

If Ulster's constitutional status is now to be put as beyond all cavil and debate - and that, I take it, is what the Chequers event was intended to bring about - the people of Ulster must have the same opportunity as their fellow citizens to debate, and to decide, the great national issues which give meaning and purpose to the mainland political parties. When that is accomplished the long agony of Ulster will lie behind us and its people, all of them, will at last have entered into secure possession of their inheritance.

I will not remain at the level of generalities. The process has to begin somewhere some time. For all its claims to represent the principles of democracy, I see no prospect that the Labour Party will make the start. If it is to be the Conservative Party that ends direct rule by breaking off the long intrigue of which direct rule was the instrument, then it is through the Conservative Party that those Ulster electors who would be supporters and members of the Conservative Party in Great Britain must find a way to participate in the politics of their country, a country no longer a stepmother but a true mother to this province of Ulster.

The author is Official Unionist MP for Down South. This is extracted from a speech delivered last night to the Warrenpoint branch of the South Down Unionist Association.

John Crossland on the reconstruction of a famous sea battle



John Crossland
Mary Evans Picture Library

The explosion was heard 15 miles away in Alexandria. To John Nicol, serving a gun in the foetid darkness of the lower deck, it seemed that the whole after-part of his ship, the *Goliath*, had blown up. It "got such a shake". Sir Edward Berry, Nelson's flag-captain, spoke later of "an awful pause and death-like silence" for about three minutes.

L'Orient - with three continuous gun decks and 130 guns in broadside one of the largest first-rate battleships of her day - blew up at the height of the Battle of the Nile.

By 9.30 in the evening the great ship was blazing like some Viking's funeral pyre. The French Admiral Brueys was lying dead in his cabin and only the captain, Casabianca, continued to stamp the quarter deck in defiance, refusing to haul down the tricolour. His 10-year-old son, subject of the most famous lines about the battle, "the boy stood on the burning deck", was apparently clinging to the rigging, itself now a flaming ladder to the night sky.

At 10pm the end came in a firestorm which briefly threw both fleets into clear relief and showed the French how they had been completely outmanoeuvred by Nelson. The inky shoal waters then swallowed *L'Orient*. They sealed a repository of secrets which, 186 years later, a French archaeological team is now seeking to answer.

Just back from the Nile team leader M Jacques Dumas, a marine lawyer and diver of 40 years' experience, gave *The Times* a progress report on the first full season of diving.

Last season, in a reconnaissance dive backed by the French and Egyptian governments, Dumas found the skeleton of a man o' war. But which? Four French ships sank in the battle - nine others were taken as prizes and two escaped - and their exact location had never been established. Working in the disturbed silt and sand of the Nile's mouth, sometimes with a heavy sea running and unable to see more than six feet in front of their faces, the team found the task of identification daunting.

Perhaps it had been auspicious to invite the 70-year-old Prince Louis Napoleon, head of the Bonaparte family, to participate in a dive this summer. They soon found the huge rudder of the vessel, 12 metres high and weighing 12 tons, and carved into one of the bronze gunheads or portholes was the name *Le Dauphin Roi*, the name by which *L'Orient* was known before the French Revolution.

Working in a straight line towards the huge bow anchor found last year, Dumas and his team were able to get an idea of *L'Orient*'s size (her construction plans vanished in the Revolution) and how she was damaged by the explosion. The fact that rows of 36-pounder cannon, normally bracketed with an intervening space of about 16 inches, were

Secrets of the burning deck revealed

found 50 or 60 metres apart indicated that she had been opened into two halves. Great stretches of what had been "the burning deck" emerged from the sand, together with blocks for the rigging, still in working condition.

"To identify this great ship was a coup in itself", M Dumas told me from the elegant Paris office occupied by SOFRAS (Société Française d'Archéologie Submarine). "But one of our aims is to reconstruct the battle, as far as possible, from archaeological sources, and having pinpointed *L'Orient* we can now establish the exact positions of the other French ships."

Also, for the first time, it converts the rough sketch map of Aboukir Bay and the two fleets, drawn by one of Nelson's officers, into the reality of a battlefield, and shows the measure of Brueys' fatal complacency. He was anchored with a fortified island protecting the head of his line, and shoals and frigates of the fleet. However, says Dumas, "We found there were as

much as 3,000 metres between the French fleet and Aboukir Island. Even with the reefs at the entrance to the bay that was too much."

Nelson exploited the gap and destroyed the launchpad from which Bonaparte planned to cut Britain's vital link with its Indian possessions. Dumas has found one of the printing presses sunk with the ship, complete with Arabic type, from which the French poured out propaganda leaflets inciting the Egyptians to rise as allies of the Revolution. The type founts originated in the Vatican, the only European source of Arabic type. Dumas has turned up correspondence between Napoleon and a mathematician named Manges directing the commandeering of these presses for the expedition.

Personal trinkets found in the area of the officers' quarters have started a train of romantic speculation. It is known that "was a woman on *L'Orient*, Pauline Foures, who was smuggled aboard disguised as an artificer by her officer husband. She was not present at the

battle and later became the mistress of Citizen General Bonaparte.

Rummaging in the silt, Dumas found a decorated gold thimble. Did Pauline leave it behind or was there another woman on board? Nearly was a gold chain with the initial "B". Could it have belonged to the admiral? A check was made into the archives at Uzes, his home town, but it was inconclusive.

Muskets, sabres and dozens of metal buttons and cap badges appeared regularly, the latter bearing regimental numbers, thus helping to fill in the record of Napoleon's army. *L'Orient*'s position gave Dumas a bearing on the frigate *L'Artemise*, which had been set on fire by her captain rather than surrender. Here they found the ship's compass, to match the bronze set square discovered in *L'Orient*.

Roughly five metres of the ship's upperworks have been found to be intact, giving Dumas high hopes of uncovering a "French Mary Rose".

The French death toll at the Nile was 1,700. As John Nichol noted: "The whole bay was covered with dead bodies, mangled, wounded and scorched, not a bit of clothes on them, except their trousers." Dumas has found the remains of many of them and, when the excavation is complete, intends to lower some suitable memorial to the seabed. He also intends to reconstruct the remains of *L'Orient*'s stern, either in France or Egypt, as a permanent memorial.

Forest hopes may lie with the Greens

Hainburg, Lower Austria

Lying some 25 miles east of Vienna, the Medieval town of Hainburg has long attracted the conservationist's interest. Its picturesquely situated castle guards the spot where King Frederick of Bohemia married Margaret of Austria. According to legend the Hain which here for west the sulphurous waters of Bad Deutsch Altenburg, which have attracted visitors from the time of the Romans.

Less than 200 yards from Hainburg stretches Central Europe's last surviving wetland forest, 800,000 square metres of nature reserve which arouses the enthusiasm of nature lovers throughout the world.

Last Monday, after almost a year of acrimonious debate, the Lower Austrian government decided to press ahead with plans to construct a hydro-electric power station 600 yards to the north of Hainburg on the Danube. The decision, based on a belief that the wetland forest's unique ecological system could survive drastic construction and a radical deepening of the Danube, has been hailed as Central Europe's environmental catastrophe of the century.

The World Wildlife Fund, together with distinguished Nobel prizewinner Professor Konrad Lorenz, have argued for months that

the construction of the power station would have disastrous ecological effects. In February this year the Duke of Edinburgh spoke in Vienna as president of the fund, warning the Austrian government that if it approved the decision of the regional government it would inevitably damage its standing in the conservation world.

The Duke's statements drew fire from socialist politicians in Austria, who accused him of unwarrented interference in their internal affairs. At the same time, however, over 100,000 signatures were gathered supporting the fund's stand on the issue. Even the Czechoslovakian government, not known for harbouring "green" sentiments, denounced the scheme, insisting that in addition to the environmental effects in Austria the nearby Slovak town of Bratislava would run the risk of floods while the station was constructed.

To counter this unusual but formidable alliance of communists, royalists and eminent scientific opinion, the Austrian government mobilized 30,000 trade unionists to demonstrate in favour of the power station. Their march through Vienna reminded those who opposed the project that they were taking on one of the most powerful industries in the country, and one which had the government's almost undivided support.

With Austria exporting at least 10 per cent of her hydro-electric energy there is at present no drastic need for a new power station. But those in favour of Hainburg argue that there is no guarantee that this will always be the case. Combined with trade union pressure and a widespread belief that the government must show some decisiveness, this argument has finally forced its hand.

But as the World Wildlife Fund prepares its legal case, and as thousands of signatures pour into the parliament protesting at the decision, Vienna may yet decide to hold some kind of referendum on the issue. The unprecedented victory two months ago of the Greens in Vorarlberg in Western Austria, which gave them four seats in the provincial government, has been a warning to Vienna that there is more than enough feeling in Austria for a protest vote.

While the government is undeterred by the opprobrium it would receive in the conservationist world, it will think twice before focusing disenchantment with the two major political parties on so emotive an issue. The hope that this may ultimately prevent the project from going ahead is the only optimism the conservationists may now feel.

Although most politicians agree

Richard Bassett

Woodrow Wyatt

Arthur Scargill's exhausted seam

The National Coal Board employs some 222,000 men. This week more than 100,000 were not on strike. The National Union of Mineworkers' membership among NCB employees is 189,000 of which over 68,000 were not on strike this week. Why are 121,000 NUM members still not at work?

Intimidation must account for a large number. In tight communities where the majority are not working, the risk of physical attack, house burning and so on is acute. Those from the intimidated there are two categories, which tend to merge into each other: those who believe in blind loyalty to the union right or wrong; and those who are convinced that Mr Scargill is right when he says he is.

Scargill has one incontrovertible argument on his side. Last March, the NCB did propose a reduction of 4 million tonnes of high-cost coal production with a commensurate loss of jobs (it was 20,000 the previous year) in accordance with its aim of cutting out the worst loss-making pits and concentrating on cheaper coal production.

He asserts that miners do not have the right to accept large voluntary redundancy payments because that would be to take away the jobs of their descendants. In older mining communities based on nearby pits this argument has some appeal, though the NCB would have no difficulty achieving the voluntary redundancies it is looking for.

To keep up the morale of that section of his members voluntarily on strike, Scargill has to convince them that they can win, and the NCB is forced to abandon pit closures and job cuts. From the outset, he has made florid claims to this effect. In May he said power stations had only eight weeks' supply of coal. The hoped-for power cuts should therefore have come in July. He has frequently repeated predictions of power cuts which have never come and apparently his most fervent followers are not yet disenchanted.

Last Monday Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, said that there were stocks of 37 million tonnes of coal, a reduction of only around 76 million tonnes since the strike began in March. The Central Electricity Generating Board has not even begun to import foreign coal, readily available at Rottweil for £25 a tonne, plus £5 delivery to Britain (against the average cost of £46 a tonne for undelivered home-produced coal). Between August and September the stocks at power stations actually rose from 15.27 million to 15.6 million tonnes.

There are some 22 million tonnes at collieries and open-cast sites. The magic of Scargill presumably convinces his followers that these could not be moved, but despite a few railmen being awkward there has not been any problem in getting coal moved by road. The much vaunted help the NUM was to get from the TUC and other unions has not materialised and is increasingly less likely to do so: something which must be obvious to his members.

It is not a question of power cuts being forced in the winter, early next year or next summer. The strike could continue indefinitely without any power cuts. The 63 pits producing coal are contributing

Joseph Connolly

Promise, I won't write a word

The knack of never being without a cab in London is to flag down several at a time, ascertain where the blazes the noxious drivers wish to go, and endeavour to wrap one's entire day around the least ridiculous destination. Hendon is a good place to want to go, as taxi drivers are all on their way home and all of them live in Hendon, as everyone knows.

The other night I was at the wrong end of the Gray's Inn Road and the rain hung outside a hospital blanket. "Look", I tried, "just take me to *The Times*. The first two cabs to stop didn't want to be seen within spitting distance of the place, the third said

cargill's
old seam

P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WCIX 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 1 1984

AFTER DOWNTON STREET

Laden with honour, bolstered by a princely pension, warmed by a misty respect in the shortening memory of the political nation, former prime ministers (those who have also left party office) retire into university chancellorships, the writing of their version of events, and the occasional statesmanlike oration about the grand issues of the day as seen from a great height. That is what the idealized version of the British political system prescribes; and it is to a large extent what actually happens.

But it cannot be absolutely depended upon to happen. Like spent roman candles round a bonfire which may yet contain within what remains of them one or more belated coloured burst, former prime ministers may at any time go off in the face of the unwary, even if muffled in ermine, and even at ninety. When as now there are as many as five of them on the ground, they want watching.

Their propensity for mischief is related to the manner of their exit. Three of the five left shortly after the defeat of their party in a general election, Lord Home of the Hirsel and Mr Callaghan more or less voluntarily. Mr Heath anything but. Lord Stockton, as Harold Macmillan, left in a conjunction of personal illness and party steaziness. The facts underlying the resignation of Lord Wilson of Rievaulx remain an enigma to this day.

Lord Home has conformed at

every point to the idealized portrait of the retired statesmen. Mr Callaghan, apart from his intervention in last year's general election when he disconcertingly blew a rent in the tissue paper uniting Mr Healey's military doctrine with Mr Foot's, has operated as an impeccable party-square backbencher whose counsel is at the service of the nation.

The other three have been on their hind legs recently and may be judged from that. Lord Wilson remained, enigmatically non-combatant when he delivered the John F Kennedy memorial lecture at Oxford last night. Lord Stockton records in his memoirs that when he had an important speech to make he almost always felt violently sick most of the day before, and how even after seven years as prime minister he would lunch alone before taking parliamentary questions "in order to conceal if not overcome this nervousness". So presumably he suffered agonies before making his maiden speech in the House of Lords during the debate on the Address. It was hugely enjoyed, and as every appearance of enjoying it himself. There was a bit too much about how the miners won two world wars for the comfort of Number Ten, and about growing division in the nation, and how "once you get a doctrine, that is the end of you". Enough mischief to delight, but no blood drawn.

MR HAWKE AGAIN

Australians go to vote today, intent it seems upon re-electing Mr Bob Hawke's Labour government for a further three years in office. (The country's leading opinion polls will be scratching around for painful employment if they do not.) But the return ticket is unlikely to guarantee ministers the easy ride they have had so far.

The occasionally lachrymose Mr Hawke would seem to have little to cry about. Since March last year when he led Labour back to power he has enjoyed quite a blissful honeymoon, as political honeymoons go. Inflation has been halved to around 5 per cent, the stock market is buoyant, profits are up, unemployment is down – and so is the number of strikes. After one of the most damaging droughts in Australian history, he even made it rain – by no means the only achievement aided by that unfair share of luck, without which no politician can long survive.

He can also, however, claim credit for building a solid platform of public confidence on which the Australian economy has been able to expand. Industrial peace particularly has been ensured by Mr Hawke's prices and incomes agreement with the unions – which was an important component of his victorious campaign in March 1983.

Hawke the radical has become Hawke the respectable, display-

ing a Wilsonian pragmatism which has dispelled the lingering fears of left-wing revolution in that deeply conservative country. In that sense he has done for the Australian Labour Party what Clement Attlee did for the Labour Party here, by showing a capacity for sound and responsible government – although parallels must stop there.

Indeed he has all too obviously nonplussed his official Opposition by stealing the middle ground. This has left it with little option but to move to the right or concentrate on certain specific issues – which is largely what it has done. Mr Andrew Peacock's case was not helped moreover by his decision to call the Prime Minister a "little crook" – an insult which, in the manner of a boomerang in the outback, came back to hit the sender smack between the eyes.

Mr Peacock's personal standing in the opinion polls has been helped by a last minute surge. This was partly due to his apparent success in last weekend's live television debate between the two men – although Liberal-National parties have been famous for making late runs. But Mr Peacock's sudden improvement seems more likely to save him from ignominious defeat within his own party after the election than to make him prime minister.

This would not however be an inconsiderable factor because in

three years' time he could still have the last laugh. Mr Hawke's chances of doubling his 25-seat majority in the House of Representatives look good, but his prospects of winning any kind of control over the Senate are threatened by the emergence of the Nuclear Disarmament Party (NDP) – whose members are unhappy over Mr Hawke's robust attitude on nuclear issues. Not only is the NDP threatening to thwart the Government's hopes in Canberra's upper house, but it could help to coalesce left-wing discontent over Hawke's centrist position during the next three years.

There are also misgivings about the continuing growth of the Australian economy in what would be a leaner period ahead, and over the future for Labour's pact with the unions. A decline in economic performance could certainly lead to union disenchantment and to demands for more money than industry is able to afford. Could Australians have a winter of discontent even?

Or the other hand again, these are signs on the horizon. For the time being Mr Hawke looks secure and deserves a second mandate. Australians wanted strong, sensible consensus government, and responding to their mood, by and large he has given it to them. The question is how long he can continue to do so without running into trouble with his own.

FROM COLD WAR TO COLD PEACE

Yesterday Mrs Thatcher and President Mitterand found themselves in close agreement on how to pursue their relations with Moscow. The prospects for a concerted western policy are improving, and there seems more hope of progress than for many months. Yet that should not be confused with genuine détenté.

In his report to the Supreme Soviet the Finance Minister Vasily Gorbacov stated that the USSR was trying to promote a climate of trust and to return international relations to the path of "détente"; he then announced a substantial increase in the military budget. Most politicians in the West are apparently following a similar strategy of expanding both defence against, and contacts with, the other side. But there are exceptions. Mr Kinnock offered to eliminate Britain's nuclear defences in return for a promise from President Chernenko not to target his rockets on the United Kingdom. The Soviet leader called the Labour Party's defence programme a responsible approach and maintained that "the USSR is opposed in principle to the use of nuclear arms". His predecessor described unilateralism as "naïvete".

When Chancellor Sinowatz of Austria visited Moscow this week he emphasized how Soviet-Austrian cooperation proved that countries with different political systems could co-exist happily in peace. But only weeks

before, Czech and East German fugitives were shot attempting to escape across the Austrian border. And more recently, at another border in Korea, a Soviet defector started a battle in which several soldiers died. Hundreds of Poles embarked on a one-way voyage from their homeland in which brutal police assault critics of the regime. Is this really a basis for "peaceful co-existence"?

In Moscow Stalin is increasingly remembered in newspapers, journals and films as a great military and economic leader. What were even recently described as his "negative features" now go unmentioned. But his influence is still felt in the camps; over 900 political prisoners are known by name, and there are certainly more whose names are unknown in the West. A distressing number of these prisoners of conscience have died this year, crushed by the wretched conditions of their confinement; among them were the young journalist Valery Marchenko and two members of the Ukrainian group for monitoring the observance of the Helsinki accords.

Increasing communication with the Soviet leaders certainly offers more hope of achieving some relaxation of tensions. But it is not enough to shake their hands. They must be reminded that civilized states are expected to honour all their agreements, not merely those that are convenient.

More high level meetings are planned. President Chernenko may visit France, while his heir-apparent, Mikhail Gorbachev, is expected soon in Britain, to be followed later by the Foreign

Minister Mr Gromyko. The American Secretary of State Mr Shultz is to meet Mr Gromyko in Geneva early next year to discuss new arms-control agreements. The gates of the Kremlin are open again. By order of the party, the climate is to be improved.

The CND has shown its reluctance to disrupt what it feels is a positive trend in Moscow. It refused to denounce the Soviet arms build-up while continuing to attack Washington. However, the unofficial peace movements in the eastern block continue to emphasize that there can be no genuine progress on arms limitation without an equally strong commitment to human rights. Relaxation of tension must be based on clearly verifiable agreements in both spheres.

If Mr Kinnock were prepared to pursue humanitarian issues as openly as the question of reducing nuclear weapons, the Kremlin would not have found his approach quite as "responsible". Yet the Soviet leaders must be told again and again that when they flagrantly abuse international accords on human rights they make it so much more difficult to reach agreements on other essential matters.

When Chancellor Sinowatz of Austria visited Moscow this week he emphasized how Soviet-Austrian cooperation proved that countries with different political systems could co-exist happily in peace. But only weeks

Student burden on parental income

From Dr Keith Hampson, MP for Leeds North West (Conservative)

Sir, The more one looks at Sir Keith Joseph's proposals on the parental contribution, the more one wonders how well prepared the details have been and whether ministers are operating under some false impressions.

For instance, the so-called "residual" income on which the parental contribution is assessed should not be confused with net after-tax income. A joint husband and wife income of £20,000 (the husband, for example, a salesman and his wife a secretary) could have an assessed residual income of £19,000, when actually their after-tax income would be under £15,000.

On the basis of the residual figure they would have to find for a son at London University £2,290 (plus travel costs). This means that their son is consuming over 15 per cent of their net income.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL POOLE,
19 St Albans Avenue,
Weybridge, Surrey.

From Mr Thomas Hearn

Sir, I have two sons. One is aged 18 and is hoping to go to university; the other is some three years older and is in the Army. Both are adults in law, entitled to vote, to marry and to enter into legally binding contracts.

The only control over, or responsibility for, what they do that I now retain is whatever persuasive authority may rest with a parent of grown-up children.

However, whilst my soldier son recently completed an expensive training course, culminating in the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, towards which I was not required to contribute a penny, the prospects of my student son going to university will be determined, not by his ability or industry, but by my willingness to part with a substantial proportion of my net income for the duration of his stay there in order to pay for it.

Where is the logic or equity in this discrimination?

I am, Sir.

THOMAS HEARN,
48 Alleyn Road, Dulwich, SE21.

From Mr Michael Bailey

Sir, Compared with the privations suffered by the unemployed, pensioners and disabled, the proposed reduction in student grants pales into insignificance.

Marginal though it is, the cut gives students' parents (predominantly Conservative) the long overdue opportunity of a political rethink. In learning the true meaning of Thatcherism, moreover, all students take their first faltering footsteps into the University of Life. Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL BAILEY,
48 Kingshill Park,
Dursley, Gloucestershire.
November 29.

From Mr V.S. Garrison

Sir, Life assurance premium relief abolished; VAT imposed on home buildings improvements, and now punitive charges for higher education, all aimed squarely at those who hold to the principles of self-help and family betterment.

Where, I wonder, should we now turn for true political Conservatism? Yours faithfully,

VICTOR GARRISON,
5 Stonehaven Drive, Fincham,
Coventry, West Midlands.

From Mr David Harris, MP for St Ives (Conservative)

Sir, While attention is rightly focused on the famine in Ethiopia, I wonder if I could raise the plight of the 10 members of the family of the former Emperor, Haile Selassie, who have been held in prison in Addis Ababa, for some 10 years.

While it would be completely wrong to use food aid as a bargaining counter, the Ethiopian authorities should know that there are many people in Britain who are deeply concerned, purely on humanitarian grounds, about the prisoners' welfare. Seven of them are women, including the daughter of the late Emperor and she is now in her seventies.

Those of us who have been worried about their health for some time had been pinning our hopes on a possible amnesty last September to mark the tenth anniversary of their release.

Surely, the Ethiopian Government should now allow these unfortunate people to slip quietly out of the country, secure in the knowledge that they pose no political threat to the present administration. Such an act of mercy would do a great deal to improve relations between Britain and Ethiopia.

Although I have concentrated on members of this particular family – mainly because several of them are well known in Britain, particularly two who received part of their schooling at Penzance in my constituency – I should make it clear that there is general concern about political prisoners in Ethiopia who have been held without trial.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID HARRIS,
House of Commons.
November 14.

From Mr J. H. Wemyss

Sir, The continued reduction in staff in the commission can only lead to poorer advisory services, when what is so badly needed is multi-disciplinary advice on management, marketing and conservation.

The commission welcomes and will use the ancient woodland inventories being prepared by the Nature Conservancy Council and accepts that conservation in ancient woods is of primary importance, but is inexplicably silent about the need to involve the NCC in the future management of these woods.

The commissioners are now reviewing their policies for broad-leaved woods in the light of submissions received. It would be an unforgivable tragedy if this opportunity was lost to recognise the multiple uses and values of our broadleaved woods and the nation was condemned to watch over a continuing decline in our woodland heritage and its wildlife.

Neither does it suggest that many ancient woods could be rehabilitated to at least part of their former glory.

Proposals for further assistance to woodland owners are at best half-hearted; they include no grants for sensitive long-term management and reject capital tax concessions for

revolution in Ethiopia. Unfortunately, this event came and went without their release.

Surely, the Ethiopian Government should now allow these unfortunate people to slip quietly out of the country, secure in the knowledge that they pose no political threat to the present administration. Such an act of mercy would do a great deal to improve relations between Britain and Ethiopia.

Whatever the interpretations, the fact remains that the negotiations will resume from a higher level of nuclear armaments. Can anybody feel happy about this? Have the "positions of strength" increased the security of either side?

This willingness is interpreted as a failure of Soviet diplomacy. However, the fact is overlooked that during the year since the Geneva talks broke off the Soviets were not idle; they resumed the deployment of SS20s (the original reason for Nato's decision to deploy Pershing II and cruise missiles) and stationed them in Czechoslovakia and East Germany. Thus they could claim that they are returning to the negotiations from a greater position of strength than a year ago.

Yours faithfully,

J. H. WEMYSS,
Flat 3,
The Lodge,
Sandy,
Bedfordshire.
November 22.

From Professor J. Rothblat

Sir, There are several disturbing notions in your leader today (November 26), but I want to comment on only one, the nuclear issue. You suggest that President Reagan's policy of negotiation from strength has worked, as evidenced by the Soviet willingness to resume negotiations.

Information from Mr John Fowler (November 28), whom I have only now been able to contact, or anyone else who was involved will be most helpful in establishing whether any such failure as he described was due to equipment having been damaged by the fire – as seems likely – or a shortcoming in procedure.

Yours faithfully,

TONY M. RIDLEY,
Managing Director (Railways),
London Regional Transport.
55 Broadway, SW1.
November 30.

Tail-back town

From Mr J. H. Wemyss

Sir, How Hardyeve is the Okehampton situation; on one side the Valley of the Great Dairies, on the other, Egdon Heath! Only contemporary man could suppose that there is a solution to such a dilemma!

But the question all Hardy's words imply is, why do most fiscal and other policies favour the car as against other less environmentally destructive forms of transport? Could it be that to do otherwise would retard the conversion of Britain into one large industrial estate, a process so dear to the present administration?

Yours faithfully,

J. H. WEMYSS,
Flat 3,
Dartmouth Park Hill, NW3.
November 27.

Up in the air

From Mr J. A. J. Berry

Sir, If Miss Barbara Crispin (November 26) believes the Post Office Tower (now in fact Telecom Tower) to be one of the most elegant and distinctive London landmarks then she herself has become hopelessly caught up in the euphoria about the privatization of the company.

From my window it looks like the rear end of an abandoned space rocket.

Yours faithfully,

JAMIE BERRY,
Flat Seven,
34/36 Harcourt Terrace, SW10.
November 28.

From Mr T. A. Matthews

Sir, If, as forecast, British Telecom shareholders what will happen when the annual general meeting is held to which all shareholders are invited to attend?

Yours faithfully,

TOM MATTHEWS,
78 Primley Road,
Sidmouth,
Devon.
November 28.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Doubts on Church poll questions

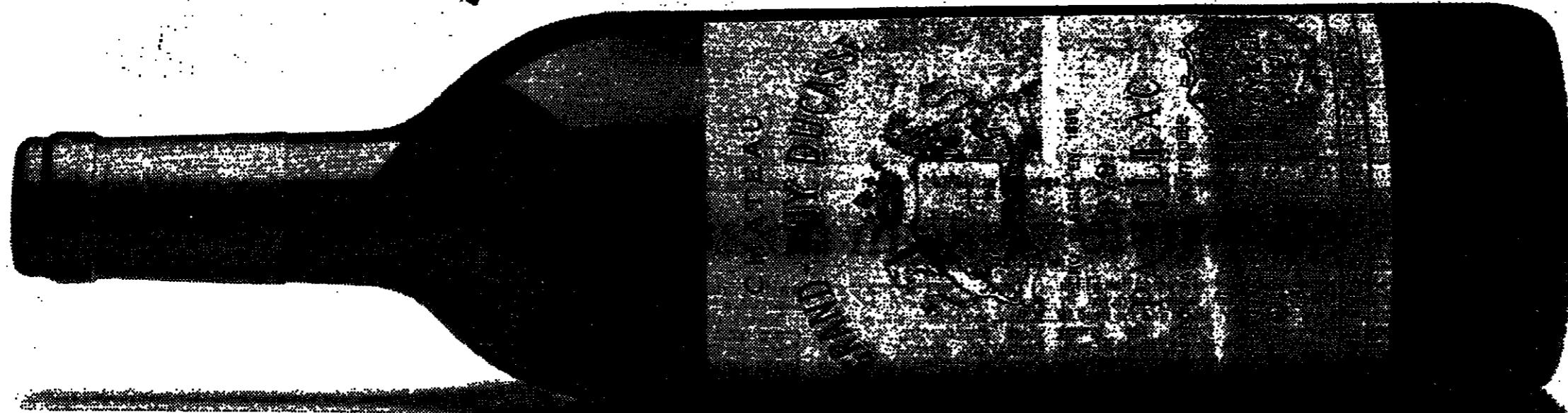
From the Archbishop of York

example there is a choice between historical fact and legend. The Bible, according to the pollsters, is either of divine authority with absolutely reliable teachings, or mostly so, or just a collection of stories and fables. The presence of Christ in the Communion Service is either bodily or spiritual in the bread and wine, or spiritual in the bread and wine, but in the hearts of believers.

Admittedly many people do think about theology in very simplistic terms. But my complaint is that by giving absurd questions the statistical dignity which results from inclusion in a poll, popular thinking on the subject is pushed more and more in the direction of unreal and unnecessary oppositions. Polls of this kind, in other words, by oversimplifying complex issues, can assist in the disastrous process of polarization.

Sainsbury's Vintage Selection.

It reads like the wine list in a good restaurant. Until you come to the prices.



If you're a wine buff who's been buffeted by rising prices you'll welcome our Vintage Selection.

You'll find the quality familiar and the prices, quite often, nostalgic.

All the wines have been tasted and tested by our wine buyers, who have been working, if you can call it work, on this selection for 2½ years. (Over 1,000 wines were considered.)

All of the wines are ready to drink now though some are suitable for laying down.

Many of them come with established reputations like the Villa Antinori or Château Grand Puy Ducasse.

Some are more unusual like the delicious dessert wine Muscat de Beaumes de Venise – or our dry red wine from Portugal called Quinta da Bacalhôa.

Many are virtually exclusive to Sainsbury's and all bear our Vintage Seal on the label.

You'll find the complete list in most of our larger stores and most carry a good selection.

We hope you'll enjoy reading about the wines below and that you'll be tempted to turn a wine list into something even more satisfying.

A shopping list.

1. Château de la Dimerie Muscadet De Sèvre et Maine Sur Lie 1983. This Muscadet is named after two of the Loire's great tributaries and with the added fruit and body resulting from remaining on the lees ("sur lie") is the ideal accompaniment to all fish – especially shellfish. A light, dry and refreshing white wine £2.55.

2. Moulin Touchais 1964 Anjou. The valley of the Loire shelters the Chenin Blanc vines from which are made some exceptional white wines. In the limestone "caves" at Doué la Fontaine lies a huge selection of some France's best kept wine secrets. Moulin Touchais is one. The perfect dessert wine with plenty of fruit and a balanced sweetness best revealed when chilled. £5.95.

3. Château des Bidaudières 1983 Vouvray. The Chenin Blanc grape produces, along the Loire, wines which vary from dry to very sweet according to conditions. Nowhere is this contrast more marked than in Vouvray, on the north bank to the east of Tours. This wine lies mid-way in the sweetness range and so is an ideal companion for lighter desserts or fruit. At its best lightly chilled when it also serves excellently as an aperitif. £3.25.

4. Domaine de la Bizolière 1983 Savennières. Savennières lies just downstream of the town of Angers in the Anjou-Saumur region of the Loire Valley. Here the Chenin Blanc produces long-lived, firm-bodied, dry white wines of which this is a fine example from a single domaine. Serve lightly chilled with white meat or fish dishes. £3.60.

5. Sancerre Les Peniers 1982 or 1983. The two wine producing districts of Sancerre and Pouilly Fumé lie on the Loire to the south-east of Orleans, where the Sauvignon Blanc and the limestone soil combine to produce white wines which are dry, flinty and often slightly smoky. Sancerre, a charming village on the west bank of the river, gives its name to this splendid accompaniment to all fish dishes. £4.45.

6. Domaine de la Soucherie 1982 Côteaux du Layon. In the vineyards of this single domaine in the Côteaux du Layon, the unique micro-climate of this sheltered region to the south of the River Loire allows the grapes of the Chenin Blanc to ripen to full sweet-

ness. The result is a rich dessert wine, which, whilst sweet, has a fine balancing acidity on the finish. £2.79.

7. Château Tertre du Moulin 1982 or 1983 Entre-Deux-Mers. Between the "two seas" of the Dordogne and Garonne lies a vast area of wine production. The white wines of this area are allowed the appellation "Entre-Deux-Mers". This is a crisp, fruity, dry white wine from a grower with an established reputation for consistent quality. Serve lightly chilled on its own or with fish dishes. £2.55.

8. Chablis Premier Cru 1983 Fourchaume or Montmain. To the north-west of Dijon in Burgundy lies Chablis, where the Chardonnay vines thrive in the calcareous soil known as "Kimmeridge clay". The resulting wine is distinctively green-gold in colour and dry and crisp on the palate; it rewards chilling and is aged with poultry or fish. £3.65.

9. Château Ferrande 1982 or 1983 Graves. The Graves district produces some fine dry white wines in addition to its more famous reds. This white wine inherits its fine balance from the blending of Sauvignon and Semillon grapes. It's a crisp dry medium-bodied white wine at its best when served lightly chilled with poultry or fish. £3.65.

10. Clos St. Georges 1981 or 1983 Graves Supérieures. Long before Graves was known for the red wines with which it is now most associated, it had a high reputation for sweet white wines. Clos St. Georges is found on the borders of Barsac. It has depth, style and length, which comes through impressively on the palate. £2.80.

11. Meursault Moillard 1981 or 1982. Meursault lies in the heart of the Côtes de Beaune, which produces some of the world's finest dry white wines, thanks to the glory of the Chardonnay grape and ideal limestone soil. Smooth, mellow, full and rounded the Meursaults nevertheless possess a fine, long dry finish which complements the subtleties of classic white meat and fish dishes. £6.75.

12. Domaine Mondange 1983 St. Véran. Undoubtedly Pouilly Fuisse is the most famous of the white Mâconnais wines of southern Burgundy. However the wines of its lesser known neighbouring appellation St. Véran are an excellent alternative. Coming from a single domaine, this wine, like its more famous counterpart, is made from the classic Chardonnay grape and is a full white wine with an appealing dry finish. When lightly chilled it will enhance poultry or fish dishes. £3.45.

13. Muscat de Beaumes de Venise 1982. This sweet white wine takes its name from one of the "villages" of the Côtes du Rhône. Unlike the reds of the area it is produced according to a different tradition. The Muscat grapes are partially fermented and then fortified with grape spirit. The result is a highly individual wine with a delicate perfume and flavour. A dessert wine of great distinction, serve chilled. £4.65.

14. Domaine du Colombier 1982 or 1983 Chinon. Though less well-known than the whites there are some fine fresh lightreds from the gravel soils of the Loire. This one has a distinct fruitiness and pleasant acidity. It is best enjoyed young and will happily accept a degree of chilling. £3.55.

15. Château Mirefleurs 1982 Bordeaux Supérieur. This château with its 125 acres of vineyards is situated in the commune of Yvrac in the Bordeaux region. A medium-bodied, dry red wine, it can be served

with casseroles and cheeses of all kinds. £5.45 Magnum.

16. Château du Bousquet 1982 Côtes de Bourg. Whilst being planted with the same blend of grapes as the Médoc (Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot) the vineyards of the Côtes de Bourg which lie on the opposite bank of the Gironde, are less well-known. This château lies amongst the best of the vineyards on the slopes near the river and produces a medium-bodied wine with good fruit and balance, which goes happily with most meats and cheeses. £2.99.

17. Château Mayne-Lalande 1981 Listrac. This excellent claret comes from Listrac, one of the lesser-known communes situated to the north-west of Margaux in Bordeaux. The traditional Médoc blend of grapes produces a medium-bodied, dry red wine which has benefitted from its time in cask prior to bottling. It is ideal with red meats and cheeses. £2.95.

18. Château Tourteau Choller 1980 or 1982 Graves. The region of Graves lies to the south of the town of Bordeaux and produces large quantities of excellent wine – both red and white. This red wine, produced from the Bordeaux blend of grapes is of medium weight with a dry tannic finish. Like all good clarets, it is aged in oak before bottling. £3.39.

19. Château Tour des Combes 1979 St. Emilion. A number of St. Emilion properties were entitled to call their wines "Grand Cru" in the classification of 1955. This is one of them, producing a wine in which the predominance of the Merlot grape bestows its customary softness. It is a medium-bodied, dry red wine ready for drinking with red meats or cheese. £4.75.

20. Château Grand Puy Ducasse 1979 Pauillac. Officially a "Fifth Growth" in the 1855 classification, this is a classic claret from one of the most important communes in the Bordeaux region. The Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot grapes thrive in the clay and gravel soil of Pauillac and produce a wine with a wonderful balance of fruit and tannin which softens with the years. To be savoured with red meats or cheeses. £4.25.

21. Château Barreyres 1981 Haut-Médoc. The Médoc, on the west bank of the River Gironde is the most important red wine district of Bordeaux. Here, from just north of Margaux, in the heart of the region is an excellent claret of medium weight which is stylish and fruity. Serve with red meat or cheeses. £3.35.

22. St. Amour 1983. St. Amour is the most northern of the villages which have been designated "Grand Cru" in the Beaujolais region and produces wines which are typical of the area: fruity, distinctive and fresh. It may be served with almost anything from salads to sausages. £3.45.

23. Château de Poncié 1982 or 1983 Fleurie. Among the nine "Cru" villages which represent the best of the Beaujolais wines, Fleurie holds an honourable place. It is produced on the granite hills in the centre of the Beaujolais region, where the Gamay grape thrives. This individual property of 60 acres, produces a light, fruity wine of character – a natural partner to milder cheeses, cold meats or poultry. £4.15.

24. Château La Bonne 1982 or 1983 Côtes du Rhône. This is the product of a vineyard which was totally replanted 20 years ago and has grown in reputation as a result. The presence of Syrah and Grenache in the blend gives the slight peppery sensation on the

palate which is so characteristic of a Rhône wine. £2.79.

25. Domaine André Brunel 1981 Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Châteauneuf is the home of the finest vineyards of the southern Rhône valley, where the climate ensures enough sun to produce robust, full-bodied wines of considerable character. These wines are made from a blend in which Grenache, Mourvedre and Syrah predominate giving them their deep purple colour and heady perfume. Serve with a steak or a Stilton – it will more than hold its own. £4.75.



26. Château de Gourgazaud 1982 or 1983 Minervois. This property lies in the hilly Languedoc-Roussillon region of Southern France. The wine is distinctive and medium-bodied – robust enough for most meats and cheeses. £4.60 Magnum.

27. Kiedricher Heiligenstock Riesling Kabinett 1983 Rheingau – Dr. Weil. From the pride of Germany's wine land come some splendid and highly flavoured white wines and this is no exception. Elegant and well-balanced it is a distinguished accompaniment to most white meat and fish. £3.99.

28. Ockfenner Geisberg Riesling Spätlese 1982 Saar – Gebert. Late-picked grapes on the warmer, south-facing slopes of the Geisberg vineyard in the Saar Valley produce a wine which whilst medium dry, has a truly remarkable depth and concentration of fruit. It should be lightly chilled before serving with salads or fish. £3.75.

29. Lugana San Benedetto 1983 Zenato. In the Lombardy countryside to the south of Lake Garda the Trebbiano di Lugana grapes produce a wine which is very little known in this country but justly feted in its own. This is an elegant, crisp dry white wine from one of the region's leading winemakers. It should be served chilled with fish and white meat dishes. £3.45.

30. Villa Antinori 1979 Chianti Classico Riserva. This Chianti Classico comes from the highly respected Antinori family who have been making wine in Tuscany since the late 14th Century. The wine is matured in new oak casks for up to two years before being aged further in bottle. A complex and elegant red wine it is ideal with red meats, game or cheese. £3.65.

31. Viña Aranza Rioja 1976. The red wines of the Rioja region in Northern Spain are known throughout the world for their distinctive bouquet and flavour. This fine example is made from a blend of Tempranillo and Garnacha grapes and its elegant smoothness has been enhanced by four years' maturation in oak casks. It is a full-bodied red wine which is ideal with all red meats and cheeses. £3.75.

32. Quinta da Bacalhôa 1982. This splendid Portuguese red wine of excellent quality deserves greater recognition. Made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot grapes, it is a dry, medium-bodied wine with great finesse and style. It should be served at room temperature with most meats and cheeses. £3.45.

Good wine costs less at Sainsbury's.

14, 15
Travel: Highland fling in the Peruvian Andes; Check-up on charters; Help for the disabled; Skiing in Switzerland

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Values: Beryl Downing's alphabet of special interest presents; Eating Out at Christmas; Sending singing telegrams

THE TIMES Saturday

1-7 DECEMBER 1984 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

The Times pick of the High Street wines



Photograph by Peter Akehurst

18, 19
Family Life goes whaling; In the Garden: Cuttings; Bridge; Chess; Review of Rock and Jazz records; Galleries, Photography

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The Week: Critics' guide to Television, Music, Dance, Opera, Theatre, Films, Radio, Auctions and Sport



Asked if he had ever mistaken Bordeaux for Burgundy, he replied: "Not since lunchtime".

It is an encouraging thought that there are lots of other wine fanatics out there. Winston Churchill, for instance, was so besotted with Pol Roger champagne that he named his racehorse after it and on a visit to Madeira in 1950, when served a rare 1792 solera wine, commented: "Do you realize that when this wine was made, Marie Antoinette was alive?" André Simon recognized that you cannot take it with you and vowed that when he died there should be only one bottle left in his cellar. As he lived until his ninety-third year and was a renowned gastronome, it seems highly likely that he fulfilled his pledge.

Wine's great joys are its hundreds of nuances of flavour and style, influenced by endless permutations of different grape varieties, vintages, wine regions and wine-makers. Without this range of tastes, wine would be nothing, its history, anecdotes, romance, and mystery all meaningless.

Unconvinced? Concentrate on grape varieties alone and you still have a multitude of different flavours:

the lively, gooseberry-green

taste of the Sauvignon Blanc

the musky-dusky perfume of the d'Yquem

the spicy lychee-like charms of the Gewürztraminer grape,

the rich buttery character of a mature Chardonnay, the Riesling's racy flavour, the plummy fragrance of a good Pinot Noir,

the grassy, blackcurranty character of a young Cabernet Sauvignon... I could go on; there are another 40 major varieties to go at least.

Christmas is a wonderful excuse to celebrate wine and you could hardly better *The Times* Top Christmas Wines recommended below.

Jane MacQuitty savours the varied pleasures and pitfalls of her favourite drink

I cannot remember the first glass of wine I drank. I do know it was at my parents' table, and that it was a good wine from a well-stocked cellar (20 years ago, buying *premier grand cru* claret and even *grand cru* burgundy was not the outrageously expensive pursuit it is now). I do remember, though, that I was very young at the time. It was probably wine cut with water, because my parents shared the enlightened continental view that their children were unlikely to get into trouble on such a harmless drink.

Of course, the inevitable happened: my brother got drunk, aged three, on Coronation Day from sneaking too many sips of champagne from guests' glasses. But I feel my mother was right to leave the house rule of wine with water for the children unchanged.

Since then it has been down hill all the way. Approaching my tenth anniversary as a wine writer I still find the subject absorbing. It contains a little of everything: viticulture and viniculture alone include biology, geography, history and chemistry. Travel is on the wine curriculum, too, as are languages – although I manage to scrape by with not much more than schoolgirl French. But perhaps the greatest challenge is that, no matter how many countries I visit, winemakers I

meet and wines I taste, I cannot hope to know it all: there is always another vintage, another wine-producing region.

Wine has also introduced me to people, places and hospitality that I would never experience in any other job. One recent, memorable occasion was the invitation from Jean Hugel of Alsace to Peter Ziegler's fortieth birthday party last summer in Baden.

Twenty of us sat down to a five-hour gastronomic marathon of seven different courses accompanied by 36 wines. Of those, no less than 20 were magnificent, 1953 clarets, including Lafite, Pétrus, Haut Brion and Cheval Blanc. To kick off with there were magnums of Krug '53, and to finish, a bottle of the legendary 1921 d'Yquem. Thankfully, wine appreciation is not all sniffing, slurping and spitting...

But wine has its nerve-racking moments, too. Imagine finishing a long, hard day of tasting purple, tannic *en primeur* wines in Bordeaux to find that your host then expects you to pinpoint the entire range of wines he has selected for dinner with 100 per cent accuracy. At times like this, I try to remember the example of that lively octogenarian, Harry Waugh, who recently celebrated his first half century in wine.

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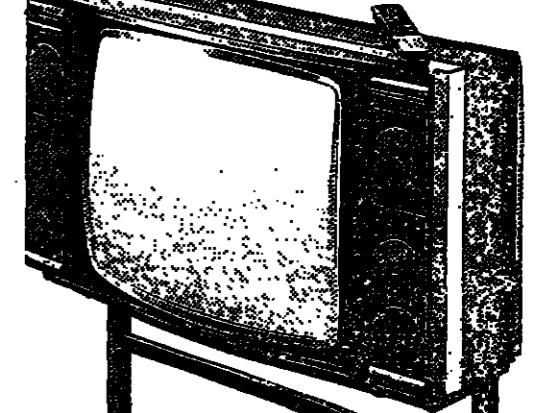
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Good taste at good prices

Christmas whites

1 Charles Denney Brut, ASDA 25.95

Admittedly this was the first wine but everyone enthused about it, and except for JR gave it their top mark. Monsieur Denney comes from the small Champagne house of Charbaut and the panel's comments ranged from "really flavoursome toasty champagne with a good mousse" (JMQ) to RG's "good aperitif and first-course wine". Not an aperitif wine though and it needs food to match.

2 1980 Meursault-Charmes, Chevaliers du Testavin, Waitrose £9.85

"Rich, ripe outstanding" (RY), "big green vegetal taste" (JMQ), "gold oakty Côte d'Or" (JR). Not an aperitif wine though and it needs food to show at its best.

3 1982 Gewürztraminer, Waitrose own-label 22.75

"Lovely floral bouquet with rich spicy lychee-like Gewürztraminer taste" (JMQ). JR also enjoyed its "flowery Alsace" taste as did RY.

4 1983 Lugana San Benedetto, F.lli Zenato, Sainsbury's 23.45

A spicy Gewürztraminer may not suit everyone so serve this "lively green mouthwatering wine" (JMQ) instead. Made from the Frebbiano grape everyone enjoyed its "crisp, clean" (RG), "apple freshness" (JR) that goes especially well with any fish course.

5 1982 Chablis, Rémy La Fort, Marks & Spencer 23.75

Made by the Chablisienne cooperative and while JMQ liked their '81 vintage she found this "pleasant green" wine "slightly thin". However, RY and JR both found its "classy nose" and "attractive flavour" as did chablis enthusiast RG who recognized it.

6 Valdigea Bianco, Cantina Viticoltori, Trento, Tesco 21.79

Watching your budget? This refreshing apple-green gulping wine (JMQ) is for you. The panel found a good buy at under £2 a bottle as marked ★.

Christmas reds

7 1979 Beaune, Domaine Saget, Guy Saget, ASDA £3.89

Admittedly this was the first wine but everyone enthused about it, and except for JR gave it their top mark. Monsieur Denney comes from the small Champagne house of Charbaut and the panel's comments ranged from "really flavoursome toasty champagne with a good mousse" (JMQ) to RG's "good aperitif and first-course wine". Not an aperitif wine though and it needs food to show at its best.

8 1981 Château de Baste, Côte des Bar, Monbazillac, Lajoinie-Courcille, Waitrose £2.45

"Good classier and stickier" (JR) than "zingy fruity wine" (JMQ) had a whiff of sulphur about it too.

9 1981 Château Bellevue, Monbazillac, Lajoinie-Courcille, Waitrose £2.45

"Getting classier and stickier" (JR) than "zingy fruity wine" (JMQ) had a whiff of sulphur about it too.

10 1982 Château de Baste, Côte des Bar, Monbazillac, Lajoinie-Courcille, Waitrose £2.45

"Rather austere earthy nose and palate" (RG) albeit a shade unexciting.

Not recommended

11 1983 Sancerre Domaine Saget, Guy Saget, ASDA £3.89

Admittedly this was the first wine but everyone enthused about it, and except for JR gave it their top mark. Monsieur Denney comes from the small Champagne house of Charbaut and the panel's comments ranged from "really flavoursome toasty champagne with a good mousse" (JMQ) to RG's "good aperitif and first-course wine". Not an aperitif wine though and it needs food to show at its best.

12 1982 Château de Baste, Côte des Bar, Monbazillac, Lajoinie-Courcille, Waitrose £2.45

"Good classier and stickier" (JR) than "zingy fruity wine" (JMQ) had a whiff of sulphur about it too.

13 1982 Château de Baste, Côte des Bar, Monbazillac, Lajoinie-Courcille, Waitrose £2.45

"Good classier and stickier" (JR) than "zingy fruity wine" (JMQ) had a whiff of sulphur about it too.

14 1982 Château de Baste, Côte des Bar, Monbazillac, Lajoinie-Courcille, Waitrose £2.45

"Good classier and stickier" (JR) than "zingy fruity wine" (JMQ) had a whiff of sulphur about it too.

15 1982 Château de Baste, Côte des Bar, Monbazillac, Lajoinie-Courcille, Waitrose £2.45

"Good classier and stickier" (JR) than "zingy fruity wine" (JMQ) had a whiff of sulphur about it too.

16 1981 Château de Baste, Côte des Bar, Monbazillac, Lajoinie-Courcille, Waitrose £2.45

"Good classier and stickier" (JR) than "zingy fruity wine" (JMQ) had a whiff of sulphur about it too.

Pudding wines

1 1983 Muscat de Beaumes-de-Venise, Cave des Vignerons, Sainsbury's £4.65

Everyone recognized this "apricot-gold fresh clean grapey Muscat" (JMQ). RG felt it could "counteract Christmas pud" while JR and RY thought it would be good with the "nuts and raisins". A useful and inexpensive festive standby and with its screw-top bottle it can be kept in the fridge and poured at will.

Not recommended

2 1983 Muscat de Beaumes-de-Venise, Cave des Vignerons, Sainsbury's £4.65

As always JMQ enjoyed the "strong intense almost lychee fruit" of this Graves Supérieur but everyone else merely found it a "pleasant straightforward sweetie" (RY).

3 1982 Château de Baste, Côte des Bar, Monbazillac, Lajoinie-Courcille, Waitrose £2.45

A cheap Loire wine and it showed. JR noted "sweet Chenin Blanc but finishes short" and RY felt it was "not mellow enough for Christmas pud".

Not recommended

4 1982 Château de Baste, Côte des Bar, Monbazillac, Lajoinie-Courcille, Waitrose £2.45

As always JMQ enjoyed the "strong intense almost lychee fruit" of this Graves Supérieur but everyone else merely found it a "pleasant straightforward sweetie" (RY).

5 1982 Château de Baste, Côte des Bar, Monbazillac, Lajoinie-Courcille, Waitrose £2.45

A classed growth Sauternes whose "deep rich flavour" (JR), "botrytis honey" (RG) and "caramelized ripe peachy taste" (JMQ) would perhaps, as RG suggested, be better "on its own and not with pud".

TRAVEL 1

Ronald Faux treks across the high Andes and around the mean streets of Lima

Inca paths through condor country

"This view is totally breathtaking," my companion said, "which is probably why I can't breathe". He was a man of a pioneering spirit which his legs and lungs were attempting to keep up with. The air was thin up there as it whistled through the lofty gap of the Punta Union De Santa Cruz, a missing tooth in the jawbone of the Andes. The altitude at 15,400ft was higher than most peaks in the European Alps but we had taken our time to reach this high point of our trek.

There were a dozen or so in the group. One or two covetous looks had been cast at the horse carrying the tents, cooking pots and a coop of diminishing chickens. If everyone weakened the animal would resemble the arrival at Widescombe of Jan Pearce's old mare. But even the horse seemed to be impressed as it rested its lean haunches at the top of the pass. The clouds cleared to give a fine view down the Quebrada Santa Cruz, a green gash between the high mountains of the Cordillera Blanca lit by brilliant shafts of sunlight.

We were an unusual mix for an expedition. Teachers, ship's engineer, nurse, oilman, jumbo jet captain, civil servant, mathematics professor and our own indomitable leader. For several days we had threaded our way across the Andes along valleys bright with lupins and alpine plants, seeing hardly a soul and nursing our blisters in peace. There can be few more therapeutic ways of passing time



Rest and relaxation: Women and children after the market has closed in Chincheros

than trekking along ancient paths in remote mountain regions. The pace is slow and energy-conserving and never seems to get anywhere until you realize that all the mountains have moved and are showing a different face.

The Punta Union trek is one of the most spectacular in the Andes because it is set among a dozen or more 19,500ft giants with summits sharpened by the winds to form a majestic drop throughout the trail.

A bus ride that became a trial of strength between the springs and the rutted road took us to our first camp beside the Llanganuco lakes beneath the twin bastions of Huascaran (21,966ft) and Huandoy (20,358ft). On that first evening both summits blazed red with the last of the sunlight above the black cleft of the valley.

The first day was spent acclimatizing to the altitude since there is little enjoyment to be had from high level trekking for anyone suffering a thumping headache or nausea, the classic early signs of altitude sickness. Then we climbed the winding trail up the Portachuelo pass, said to be the watershed from which the first drops of the Amazon spring. The pass would have been rather more impressive if the Peruvians had not driven a switch-backed vehicle road across it. Our old walking track occasionally vied with this interloper following its flat, raw surface before plunging off into the undergrowth again.

The daily pattern began with tea served at the tent door by Conchita, a charming young Peruvian in voluminous poncho topped by a trilly hat. Breakfast was served in the communal mess tent: ample quantities of carbohydrates to fuel the day's walking.

The dismantled camp with the burros, porters and horses usually ended the day ahead of the trekkers who were left to admire the scenery. Our jumbo jet captain, scanning the skies, suddenly announced: "That's it, we can all go home now". He had spotted the first condor cruising above the valley upon its motionless, multi-fingered wings.

Peru is a country of raw contrasts. The mountains and their small valley communities form one world, Lima is quite another. The skies are permanently grey and rainless. There is an air of civil unease and the chaotic spread of shanty towns on the outskirts of the city add to the severe problems of unemployment. Theft is rife and tourists are the main target.

There was an ingenious attempt to separate our jumbo

captain from his Rolex Oyster watch. One man had stood next to him in the street smiling innocently, hands in full view. Suddenly his poncho developed a third hand, that of the accomplice thief who grabbed for the watch and gave the strap an expert twist. Normally it would have broken and the thief would have escaped but they had not reckoned on the reflexes of a man who pilots 747s. His arm yielded and went into the pocket in pursuit of the thief. With his other hand he thumped the accomplice. One thief fled, the other nursed a sore ear and the captain kept his watch. Others were less fortunate but with vigilance and simple precautions (a money belt is one of the best tools) Lima is probably no worse than other third world cities that lie en route to trekking areas.

The Sherpa tour was not all hard walking but also allowed a comprehensive look at the fascinating Inca history of Peru. It was an hour's flight from Lima to Cuzco, once the capital of the great Inca empire and now overlaid with the grossly baroque architecture of the Spanish conquistadors. Their cathedrals are in poor contrast to the spare, balanced lines of the Inca buildings that remain.

There are several within easy reach of Cuzco and four hours away by train from the town are the ruins of Machu Picchu.

Built as a natural fortress in about the 14th century, the white granite ruins straddle a high ridge. There are temples once used by sun worshippers, sacrificial altars and sections of the citadel where once the intellectual leaders of the Incas lived. They form the ancient remains of an impregnable and self-contained community.

In all, the vast country is divided two-thirds on trekking, divided on sightseeing. Sherpa insist that there are no age restrictions on their tours and the main criterion is reasonable fitness. Occasionally we split into two groups, one taking a harder high route, the others a less strenuous path. We were well-led, well-fed and the company was excellent.

TRAVEL NOTES

The "Highland Peru" trek organized by Sherpa Expeditions costs £27,000 per person, £1,645 inclusive of the flight to Cuzco. Insurance is an extra £33 and a trek pack with essential specialist clothing costs £20 to hire. These other outdoor holidays in Peru are offered from £1,180 for 20 days: Sharp Expeditions, 131a Heston Road, Hounslow (tel 077 2771); Lufthansa German Airlines are at 10 Old Bond Street, London W1 (tel 080 0322).

Saints summit: The mountains of the Cordillera Blanca

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Flexible flight plans for charter passengers



Few travellers realize charter flights are available in two categories. First there are the very low-cost flights aimed at sunseeking holidaymakers on package tours - flights that tend to leave at unearthly hours and which have given their passengers bad memories of delayed departures in cramped and crowded aircraft. And secondly, there is a more upmarket series of "quasi-scheduled" charter flights. These cost more and only serve selected destinations, but they operate at convenient times week in, week out, throughout the year.

One of the problems currently facing the charter flight business is that of price. Following the price cutting by the major scheduled airlines

there is at times - especially out of season - little difference between the price of a charter or a scheduled flight. But the charter flights have greater flexibility. For example, you do not have to book two or three weeks ahead to get a budget fare. Most of the time you can book your flight - subject to space - up to departure time.

For some countries, particularly Italy, Switzerland and Germany, you can travel on an "open jaw" basis - flying out to one destination and back from another. This is an ideal method to use for touring holidays where you rent a car.

In many cases, you need not spend a Saturday night at your destination - ideal if you are the sort of person who likes a short break during the working week.

Here is a round-up of the main flight programmes. Prices shown include airport taxes.

Switzerland

London's Falcon Travel continues to offer the widest choice of flights a week from Gatwick to Geneva and Zurich. Return fares to both destinations are

£80 until December 14, rising to £100 for the Christmas period lasting until December 31. If you plan to rent a car, savings can be made with Falcon's Fiat Panda costs £15 a day with unlimited mileage. Weekend rates range from £35.50 to £54 depending on whether you rent from Friday to Sunday or Thursday to Monday.

Cheaper still is Swiss Airtours. Until December 14 the agency charges £72 return rising to £84 from December 15 through to January 6. There are five flights a week to both Geneva and Zurich and you fly on an "open jaw" basis - flying out to one destination and back from another. This is an ideal method to use for touring holidays where you rent a car.

In many cases, you need not

spend a Saturday night at your destination - ideal if you are the sort of person who likes a short break during the working week.

Here is a round-up of the main flight programmes. Prices shown include airport taxes.

Germany

German Tourist Facilities (GTF) operates a year-round

series of flights to Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Hanover and Stuttgart. Departures are on Friday and Monday. Additionally, there are four flights a week to Berlin and five to Zurich.

This winter to complete with the cheaper programme three new flights are offered: to Cologne/Bonn and Frankfurt, GTF also offers flights to Berlin and Munich. Even lower "Super Jeffets" which must be bought 14 days ahead.

Examples of return GTF flights from Gatwick (with the Super Jeffet in brackets) are Düsseldorf £69 (£49); Frankfurt £83 (£69); Hamburg £89 (£69); Hanover £89 (£69); Stuttgart £89 (£69); Berlin £99 (£88); Munich £99 (£77).

Pegasus also offer flights to Munich. Two flights are operated every week and the return fare ranges from £99 to £129 depending on travel dates.

Austria

Charter flights to Vienna operated by Austrian Air Transport and British Airtours are marketed by three different companies. City by City charges £134 for flights on Monday and Friday with Austrian Air Transport, while GTF's price is slightly cheaper at £132. For flights on Thursday and Sunday both GTF and Pegasus charge between £114 and £144.

Spain

Pegasus markets twice weekly flights from Gatwick to Madrid using British Island Airways and the Spanish airline Avianca.

Prices range from £109 to £139. Iberian Service offers similar flights to Madrid but at cheaper fares of between £86 and £104. The same company flies to Barcelona for the same price.

Italy

Major destinations are covered by Pegasus' long standing

Alex McWhirter

Agents: Falcon 01-221 0088; Swiss Airtours 01-836 6751; GTF 01-229 2474; Pegasus 01-370 6851; City by City 01-739 7885; Iberian Service 01-278 8094.

Alex McWhirter is Travel Editor of Business Traveller.

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Shona Crawford Poole in Switzerland

TRAVEL 2

Cafés and cold comfort at Grindelwald

For a ride on "the longest chairlift in the world" skiers are offered a garment that looks much like an outsize smart-jacket. Overalled in biscuit canvas and strung sidesaddle so to speak they are transported aloft, cold left shoulder first.

I have ridden "the longest chairlift in the world" once only, on a biting grey day last January. The place was Grindelwald in Switzerland and it was our first day on skis that season. We had wrestled uncomprehendingly with the transport timetables and arrived cross and cold at the lift station on the outskirts of the village.

The lift rose through stations called Oberhasli, Bort and Egg. It was supposed to climb to First and from there we planned to take a few gentle warm-up runs to convince ourselves that our legs remembered how to ski. One always fears they won't.

Without warning the chair stopped at Egg. The weather was worsening and no lifts were going on up to First. That was all very well but the only way down was a black and presumably difficult run called, encouragingly, Bort Direct. As the Irishman said, he would not advise starting from here.

We fought our way down it without incident, relearning the lesson that unguided skiing in strange areas in bad light is neither wise nor fun. It was a lousy introduction to Grindelwald.

January is low season of course, when it is likely the weather will be at its harshest, if you are lucky it means lots of fresh snow, no queues, cheaper prices and child-free slopes because the boy racers are back at school.

That week it rained. Water dripped from the eaves through the night when it should have been growing icicles. One morning the sun shone and every slope was dotted with skiers. It was never clear where they had all come from - from Wengen on the far side of the mountain maybe, because Grindelwald seemed more than half-empty.

The town was so quiet it felt shut. There was no one on the streets after dinner. The excellent half-board meals served at the Hotel Belvedere were eaten in whispers and followed by early nights. It was like a health farm with good food.

In better snow and light conditions the skiing available in the Jungfrau region resorts of Grindelwald, Wengen, and Mürren is extensive and interesting. Mountain railways always cheerful and warm,



Train scene: Wengen mountain railway traveller's view of the Lauterbrunnen Valley in the Bernese Oberland

break the back of most uphill journeys and there are inviting bars and cafés aplenty on and off the slopes.

The contrast between the genteel sobriety of Grindelwald and the glitz of St Moritz was startling. Culture-shock is putting it too strongly; perhaps culture-frisson is closer.

There is nothing villagey about St Moritz. It is a grey stone town on a hill and it has an unusually large number of jewellers. To see the people who go there to be seen, go there only in high season, Christmas, New Year and Easter.

There is no question of walking to the ski lifts in St Moritz unless you are staying well up the hill and are content to ski only one area. Taxi meters start with five Swiss francs on the clock and begin spinning as soon as the driver releases the handbrake, so it is just as well that bus services are super Swiss-efficient. The parking problem is acute.

Air fares: see this week's *Fare Deal* column (facing page). Further information on the resorts mentioned from the Swiss National Tourist Office, Swiss Centre, 1 New Coventry Street, London WC2E 9LP. The Hotel Roi Soleil in St Moritz with full board, ski pass, and ski school, but not just as part of the resort costs from £228. Club Méditerranée, 105-108 Brompton Road, London SW3 (581 4766).

Before teatime the morning's Club Med run results have been posted in the foyer of the Palace Hotel and guests returning from the slopes are relieved of their skis by the doorman. On a notice in the forecourt *ne pas claxonner* is translated as "no honking". Have those naughty Cresta boys been teasing the nice Swiss again or do all the Americans in town bring cars?

Quite a few of the Americans were billeted at Club Méditerranée's Hotel Roi Soleil where, like us, were labelled GMs, which stands for *gentil members*. The staff, who appeared more important than the

guests, are GOs, which means *gentil organisateurs*.

Being *pas gentil* for most purposes, I found staying at Club Med like going to the hairdresser or being in hospital, a mixture of embarrassing and undignified. The food is a lot better of course. In fact it is mostly marvellous, but everyone is eased out of the dining room as soon as dinner is over because the GOs have to get dressed up to take part in the show. I have never been any good at being manipulated, especially with steely-eyed professional charm.

The Roi Soleil is the more

modern of the two Club Med hotels in St Moritz and a fairly new development for the organization, multi-lingual.

In this the theory and the practice differed. It did not result in people with a common language being seated together at meals and all the tables' are for eight and you sit where you are told, there was seldom an opportunity for pleasurable conversation.

What the multi-lingual idea seemed to mean was that the easy bits everyone could manage for themselves were translated by the GOs while jokes and serious discussion passed over most non-French heads. Nobody seemed to mind.

The club's no frills formula of informal staff, non-stop activity and entertainment and genuinely inclusive prices (that is ski passes, tuition, transport, lunch, the lot) undoubtedly gives good value for money. It is not St Moritz, but there is no pleasing some people.

Membership of either of the

modern. A Grindelwald and Wengen ski pass costs £48 for six days. A Jungfrau region ski pass costs £75 for seven days.

A hotel stay at Club Med's Hotel Roi Soleil in St Moritz with full board, ski pass, and ski school, but not just as part of the resort costs from £228. Club

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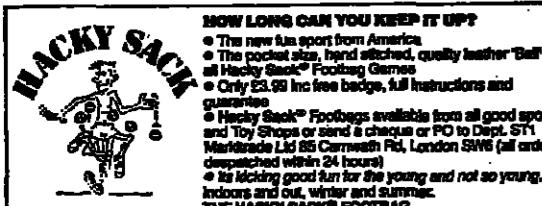
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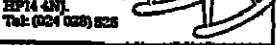


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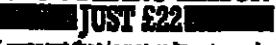
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VALUES

An alphabet of gracious giving

Beryl Downing with some off-beat ideas for tailor-made presents

Aquisitive artlovers would appreciate season's greetings in the form of a painting. Charlotte Campbell-Davys shows original contemporary works in the setting of her own house so that you can see how they would look at home. More than 250 paintings in oil, acrylics, charcoal, pastel, pen and watercolour - all modestly priced between £25 and £200 - can be seen at 37 Tufton Street, London SW1 (01-222 6929). Feline fanciers will like the "Cats Big and Small" exhibition of paintings, drawings and original prints at Grampi, 30 James Street, London, W1 (01-486 7647). Included are comic cats by

bridge, 60 Beauchamp Place, London SW3 (01-589 7939).

Fitness freaks

Can tell whether they are overdoing it by using a digital pulse monitor - a safe maximum training pulse rate is 180 minus your age and you just press the bar of this 4in x 2½in hand-held gadget to see your rate accurately displayed. The Pulse Time costs £46.20 from John Bell & Croydon, 54 Wigmore Street, London W1 or with £1.75 p&p from Andrew Stephens Co., Medical Electronics, 41 Dickson Road, Blackpool (0253 31043).

Gallery gizmos

Should set their sights on the exhibition of kelims collected by Alastair Hull on his journeys to Afghanistan and Central Asia. The rugs are 10 and 160 years old, priced from £25 to £750 and range from batman size to 30 square metres. The exhibition is at The Farnham Maltings, Bridge Square, Farnham, Surrey from December 3.

Honey Henrys

Come home with the milk in a pure silk white evening scarf, £18.40 - mezzotints of tigers by Clare Bruce, drawings by Ronald Seale, oils by specialist in cat paintings, Martin Leman. Prices up to £2,500. The exhibition is from December 5.

Indecisive imbibers

Can't make up their minds whether to have coffee or tea. The Salton Bistro with two independent tanks and a tea filter facility allows them to make tea in one pot and coffee in the other at the same time. Used just for coffee it makes 16 standard cups - double the quantity provided by the usual filter machines - and keeps it really hot. Price £29.95 at Harrods or, plus £1.50 p&p, from Barleymow Marketing, 10 Barleymow passage, Chiswick, London W4 (01-994 6477), £13.95 (50p p&p).

Christmas cooks

Who have been dilatory enough to leave making their puddings and cakes until now might like a traditional round mould £5.95 and a square cake tin with adjustable sides which gives a variety of sizes on one base (£7.95). Made in aluminium alloy by Alan Silverwood Holloware and available from Boots Cookshops.

Doll devotees

Are always entranced by classic clowns. Give a hand-made clown puppets (shown right) to hang on a wall. In traditional black and white or multi-coloured striped non-crushable fabric £17.95, plus £1.50 p&p from the designer/maker Julia Froggett, 21 Rocks Lane, London SW13 (01-578 3430, evenings). Other fabrics - velvet, gold lame, whatever you wish - can be used to order.

Elegant executives

Create the right impression in a pure silk shirt or blouse from the shop with the largest selection of colours anywhere - 54 in plain silk, 9 in spun silk, 28 in crepe de chine. Men's classic shirts, sizes 14½ to 17½ collar, are from £29.95, pleated dress shirts from £39.95, monogrammed single initial £6. Women's styles, sizes 8 to 18, include a shirt with separate cravat at £36.95 in spun silk, £49.95 in crepe de chine, a filled front blouse in spun silk £24.95, collarless shirt from £24.95. Stock designs can be made to measure for £14 extra. Brochure available from Val-

Jewellery junkies

Get their fix at the Designer Jewellers Group exhibition of modern jewellery at the Barbican Centre, level 5 foyer where 14 designer makers are displaying



Trompe-l'oeil: Decorative hibiscus tree, 4ft high with orange/red and cream/white flowers in washable polyester silk, designed for The Times by Belle Fleur, £69; planted in a terracotta pot, £26.89 from the Craftsmen Potters shop. See letters L and P.

ing their wares. Look at Clive of the 1,113 questions in *The Ultimate Trivia Quiz Game Book* (Penguin £4.95) which test the skill of a scholar and the patience of a saint. From Penguin bookshops and W. H. Smith.

Nimble needlewomen

Will appreciate a handmad wooden box with sliding lid containing 15 transparent plastic templates for patchwork. The pieces are all interrelated and can be used to make six traditional patterns - instructions included. Price £7.50 (£1.40 p&p) from Habilis, 126 Keighley Road, Skipton, North Yorkshire (0756 60132).

Keyboard kids

Will find everything they want to know in *The Synthesizer and Electronic Keyboard Handbook* by David Crombie (Doring Kindersley, £9.95), a complete guide to keyboard instruments with superb step-by-step illustrations showing playing techniques, amplification and recording. From W. H. Smith to order; for other stockists telephone 01-836 2006.

Lapsed lovers

Might restore themselves to favour with a bouquet of seasonal flowers sent by first-class letter post to arrive during the week before Christmas. Price £7 from Chesswood Postal Flowers, Chesswood Nurseries, Thakeham, Pulborough, West Sussex (07983 2340). Or give an everlasting posy, plant or tree made in fabric grafted on to dried wood trunks from £10.50 to £350 or a single fabric rosebud or camellia 80p from Belle Fleur, 15 Montpelier Street, London SW-7 (01-589 2734).

Manic masterminds

Know all the answers. When is Superman's birthday? What is a sea lemon? Which prophet came from the village of Anathoth? There are just three

Memorable messengers with witty best wishes

If your idea of personal embarrassment is to be sung a song with pertinent lyrics on some special occasion by anyone from Father Christmas to a girl wearing a big red smile and very little else, you are a likely victim for a singing telegram.

Popular in the United States for more than 40 years, singing telegrams did not get off the ground here until 1979, when two English girls, Roz Oterry and Kara Noble, launched their own companies, Sendasong and Songbirds.

Now they have 30 to 40 people working for them - from resting showbusiness professionals to amateurs with a bit of nerve needing extra cash. The answer to the continuing demand must be the inventiveness of some of the acts. Apart from dressing up and singing, some of the companies provide quite a show, involving a good deal of research and ingenuity.

Telegrams UK will do almost anything. Their most popular request is the SAS raid, which

Mary Wilson

involves four men bursting into a room wearing balacabras, carrying guns and smoke bombs.

The company to extend the business to its furthest limits is Pranksters, which has staged armed robberies, sent factory inspectors to close down buildings, and organized waiters that don't quite do what they should.

One of their cleverest pranks

Ivor Dembla, their founder,

told me, was when they sent a salesman to sell X-ray contact lenses to two company directors. "Naturally they didn't believe a word, until the salesman described in detail the colour and style of their underwear. He had rung up the two wives earlier that morning who divulged the necessary information."

Some companies will do full strips, others consider that going too far. Most do kissograms, nuns, nurses, tarzans or supermen, and if you have an original idea they will do it.

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FAMILY LIFE

Haunting world of the sea's hunted giants

If a quotation were needed to tempt young visitors into the exhibition which opens next Thursday at the Natural History Museum, I can think of none more appropriate than Matthew Arnold's flesh-tangling call to "Come, dear children, let us sway. Down and away below . . . Where great whales come sailing by, Sail and sail with unshut eye, Round the world for ever and ever . . . Appropriate because the exhibition will leave visitors in no doubt that the future for many whales is far from certain. No grandiloquent calls to conserve and protect the mightiest of all marine mammals can be seen or heard, but the message is clear.

The Whale Hall, at the 1930s and its major exhibits are the 93ft-long model of a great blue whale, constructed like a clinker-built ship and clad with plaster of Paris; and the actual skeletons of such a whale, the longest, extending 82ft from skull to tail. The new permanent exhibition has been greatly augmented, and promises to be one of the best in the museum.

The first thing you see as you enter the gallery is still the giant model of the blue whale (repainted) and the skeletons. Above and to the left, 19 models of different species of whale, from narwhal, killer and beluga to humpback, right and grey hang suspended in a shoal-like formation. Made of glass fibre, they have been cast and painted to look as realistic as possible.

Beneath the suspended models the various types of whale are described with explanations of their different shapes and colourations, whether for identification by other members of the school for example, or disguised while the whale hunts.

Working clockwise round the gallery, the first section you encounter describes the two groups of cetacean whales - baleen and toothed - and their feeding habits, each of which is nicely illustrated by comparing a trawling net (baleen) and a gin trap (toothed). Further spec-

mens models and a computer game expand the differences.

The next section shows how the whales that live in the oceans today have adapted to a marine life from their original land-based habitat (you can see the residual limb buds in a model of a cetacean foetus) and contains a reconstruction of a large fox-like creature, Mesonyx which according to experts is the whale's nearest ancestor, unlikely candidate though he looks.

Particularly fascinating are explanations of how whales and their relatives use sound and echo - for communication, directional purposes, and hunting quarry - using models, graphics and "hands on" exhibits, of which the simplest but most impressive is a device which shows why whales don't have ear flaps and how they - and we - can "hear" through their foreheads. Recordings of whale sounds, in all their diversity, provide an accompaniment.

Breathing and diving follow. With models that show how cetaceans are superbly adapted to their marine existence. Not surprisingly, experts still remain largely in the dark about how whales mate and breed, but an excellent short film shows glimpses of whales courting and possibly mating and includes a charming sequence in which male humpbacks "sing" in unison like an aquatic male voice choir, to attract the females. The commentary concludes that for many whales courtship comprises three main elements: caresses, visual displays and singing, which caused a passing technician to mutter "unlike homo-sapiens".

There is a widespread belief that whales and dolphins are extremely intelligent animals, substantiated by various tests which demonstrate their ability to "learn" certain human-imposed skills, even basic grammatical rules. But the strength of this section for me was that it posed many questions and concluded that there remain

Judy Froshaug

Whales and their Relatives opens at the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London, SW7 (589-6325) on Thurs. Mon-Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun 2.30pm-6pm. Free.



Whale of a time: Marine mammals in display formation at the Natural History Museum

Outings

RAUNTERS OF THE DEEP: Last of the films to be seen during the Capital Radio Children's Film Festival, set in Cornwall, just before the reopening of an abandoned tinmine. The ghost of a young boy killed there, and his friends and a young American girl work together to prevent another tragedy. Lumière Theatre, St Martin's Lane, London WC2. Tomorrow. Tickets £1.60 from NFT Box Office, 922 3222.

THE VICTORIAN SOLDIER LIFE IN THE BRITISH ARMY 1857-1901: Travelling exhibition inspired by the National Army Museum looks at food, discipline, daily life and active service of Victorian soldiers. Well-displayed pieces of social history. Gunnersbury Park Museum, Gunnersbury Park, London W5 (932 1612). Today until Jan 2. Mon-Fri 1-4pm, Sat and Sun 2-4pm. Free.

MINE OF INFORMATION Two topical films today - Mine Stories of Coal and Planning New Mines, both to be shown in the Small Theatre, near the Children's Gallery. This afternoon's lecture, "Intriguing Illusions", lasts about an hour, with illustrations, and will be given by Eric Coker, John Spelman in the London Science Museum, South Kensington, London SW7 (589-2450). Today, films from 1pm, lecture from 3pm. All free.

TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION: Last chance to see the excellent IBM exhibition, which demonstrates the significant role played by technology in today's society. It takes about an hour to go round, in the grounds of the Natural History Museum.

Natural History Museum, South Kensington, London SW7 (589-6323). Today 10am to 6pm, tomorrow 2.30-6pm. Free.

LONDON RIVER 1850-1944: Fascinating small exhibition of paintings, drawings, etchings, showing the changing face of the Thames. Parson's Garden, 11 Motcomb Street, London SW1 (235 6144). Today, 10am-6pm, Mon until Dec 7, 10am-6pm. Free.

CHRISTMAS MARKER: Craft stalls, Morris dances, refreshments, in this historic castle which dates from the 13th century and is now run by Carmelite monks. Allington Castle, Allington, Kent (0222 85584). Tomorrow, 11am-5pm. Adult 30p, accompanied children free. Guided tour of the castle, £1 adult, 50p child.

Why stunted minds make weak moves

Worthy parents of children who excel at chess often ask me how their offspring can improve their game, or what books on openings they should study. I reply to both questions guardedly not only because I am the author of two introductory books on chess, but also because I am firmly convinced that there is too much emphasis laid on openings nowadays.

I have just received two books for review that illustrate my dilemma, massive tomes which I can scarcely lift except with both hands: two volumes of *New in Chess*, edited by Alexander Matanovic (Batsford, £27) which classify the openings in the same style as *Informator* with the same brief notes. Their aim is to provide the reader with as full a reference book as possible and since the work seems to have been done thoroughly I have no doubt that the books will be widely read.

Nevertheless I object to this method of compiling a book, which has become increasingly popular of late. No attempt is made to add to the reader's grasp of the game or indeed to suggest new and/or better lines of play. I can think of no better way of barring young enthusiasts from increasing their understanding of chess.

How different it was when I was a boy. Then books or articles on the openings were written by such able and interesting writers as Reti, Nimzowitsch, Spielman and Rubinstein. Our present-day writers would do well to emulate their predecessors and at least give us some original analysis.

The consequences of the current trend are not difficult to see. With too much emphasis on memory, the chess world is full of young players whose imagination has been stunted.

Consider the following game which was played in a recent county club match. My opponent was a young player in his early twenties, and as the game proceeded and he began to realize we were on uncharted board, his confidence diminished and his moves became feeble.

White: D. J. Turner (Stourhead); Black: H. Golombek (Chesham and Amersham). Flank attack.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nf6 4. d4 Bc5 5. c3 d6 6. Nc3 Bb6 7. f4 Nxe4 8. Nxe4 Bxe4 9. Qd2 Nf6 10. Bg5 Nc6 11. Bxf6 Nxf6 12. Nc3 Nc6 13. Nf3 Nf6 14. Nc3 Nc6 15. Nf3 Nf6 16. Nc3 Nc6

Preparing to play B-K3 without having to worry about N-N5.

11. 0-0 12. Nc3 An unnecessary retreat since Black is not threatening to play ExN.

12. — P-QR3 13. B-Q3 Nc6 14. RQK1

The final sign of indecision which are followed by an even weaker demonstration of doubt. He could have tried N-R4 but the damage was already done with his twelfth move.

15. QR-N1 16. P-Q3 P-QN4 17. RNP-P 18. P-QN4

A losing move that should have been avoided. Instead 12 N-B2 came into consideration.

17. — B-QP 18. R-QN1 19. Q-K1 N-Q2

Aiming at Q-B4 where it strikes at two weaknesses in the White camp. Now White should have played P-QN4 but he did not like this stupefying move.

20. N-B2 N-B4 21. B-B5 N-B5 22. P-QN4 N-B4 23. P-QN4

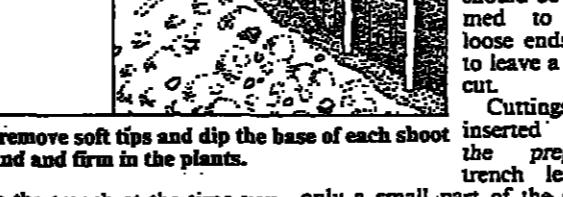
Rather better was 25 RxN but he was already quite lost.

25. B-Q2 26. B-B5 RQ-BP 26. N-B5 P-QN4 27. N-B4

Otherwise there comes R-B7 but by now the threats were too many.

28. Q-B4 29. B-B5 R-B7 30. N-Q2 Resigns.

Harry Golombek



Steps to success: Sprinkle the sharp sand in the trench; remove soft tips and dip the base of each shoot into rooting powder; insert in the sand and firm in the plants.

Raising one's own plants is one of the most satisfying aspects of gardening. Creating a new plant always gives pleasure, whether you are a beginner or have been a professional for all your working life.

Few methods of propagation need much equipment: with hard wood cuttings all we need are the plants, (or pieces of the plant), and a part of the garden. It may not always be as easy as it sounds, but if the materials are right there should be few disappointments. However, this method of propagation is not suitable for all plants since some will never form roots from vegetative shoots.

As usual, it is the preparation which matters: it is no use selecting the shoots, planting them out in the garden and expecting them to root. Soil conditions have got to be right. It is now the right time of year to select a site which is in good condition - which has been looked after and has been charged with manure or organic matter on a regular basis over a number of years. Parts of the garden which were manured for a crop last year would be suitable; fresh manure is not ideal for rooting.

Think ahead and prepare the site in the spring or early summer of the year you intend to begin. In this case you can add well rotted farmyard manure to the bottom spit and plant a short-term crop on this piece of ground in the summer.

IN THE GARDEN

A slice of life from well ripened wood

The ground will then be ready to receive the cuttings.

Heavy soil can be improved by the addition of sand or well-rotted organic matter; it is important that there is both moisture holding capacity and also that surplus water drains away quickly. Light soils can also be improved by adding organic matter, which ideally should be peat, bark or leaf mould, which has been well rotted.

Hard wood cuttings can be taken any time between October and March, when the plants are dormant. Deciduous plants are propagated by this method, but it is not suitable for evergreens.

Prepare the ground now; dig it out, then, using a spade, make a V trench with the back line of the V upright. The trench should not be less than 6in deep and can be up to 10in deep depending on the type of plant.

In the bottom of the trench, place about 2in of sharp sand, which will help to get rid of excess moisture and assist the formation of roots. It is now ready for the cuttings. (Do not dig the trench and then leave it exposed to the elements; pre-

pare the trench at the time you are taking the cuttings.)

The propagating material selected from the plants should be firm and well-ripened. Sometimes the tips of the cuttings are soft and green;

those should be cut back to sound, well-ripened wood.

Once in position, firm in well by packing down the soil from the other side of the trench; this is very important. It is also important to firm in cuttings if frost has loosened them. The length of the cutting will vary according to the type of plant, and will be from 6in to 12-15in long. The vigour of the plant and the type of growth determines the length. The

only a small part of the shoot above ground level, with the end of the cutting in the sandy layer at the base. Always use a hormone rooting powder designed for hard wood plants as this gives better results.

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vary according to the type of plant, and will be from 6in to 12-15in long. The vigour of the plant and the type of growth determines the length. The

Birds' banquet

Ilex Aquifolium, the common holly, is familiar to most people through its extensive use as a Christmas decoration. Some of the established trees in parks and gardens still carry their winter berries which were planted in Victorian times when the holly was very popular.

It is one of the best holly shrubs which may sometimes reach a height of several feet. There are a number of good forms which will enhance a garden. The common holly has very dark green leaves. If grown in dense shade, it will not fruit well and will become straggly. It has a reasonable amount of light and the soil is in good condition, it will grow very well. It requires little, if any, pruning and can easily be transplanted in the autumn or late spring if the plant is not too big.

This year there are masses of berries on the holly, but contrary to the old wives' tale, this does not indicate a hard winter ahead, but rather that the weather and conditions were good when the plants were in flower. Birds love all types of holly berry and some years the bushes are stripped bare by the ramblers.

Hypericum shoots at 6in long with the following autumn. *Kerria japonica*, *Leycesteria formosa*, privet, and even the mulberry although a tree, can be propagated in this way. *Philadelphus*, the mock orange, needs shoots about 10in long with a heel for the best results.

These are also worth a try, and although they are usually budded or grafted, they root fairly easily from wood cuttings. Strong shoots of about 6in long from the current year's growth are best; do not try the weaker forms. Hybrid Teas and floribundas are worth trying as are

cuttings inserted into the autumn or late spring if the plant is not too big.

This year there are masses of berries on the holly, but contrary to the old wives' tale, this does not indicate a hard winter ahead, but rather that the weather and conditions were good when the plants were in flower. Birds love all types of holly berry and some years the bushes are stripped bare by the ramblers.

Ilex aquifolium Golden King is the best variegated holly and is female, despite its name.

Aquilegia Madeline Brigitte is also female, with purple stems. *A. Golden Queen* is, as its name suggests, golden, but does not produce fruit. *A. argentea marginata* has silver variegations and berries well. *I. cornuta Convexa* is unusual, having small leaves, but lots of berries.

Plants cost about 27 each from Bridgewater Nurseries, Cheshire or Notcutts, Suffolk.

Ashley Stephenson

BRIDGE

Poland's persistence pays off

This was board 40.

Quarter Final US v Austria.

Love all. Dealer East.

1. A422 2. A395 3. A73 4. K732 5. K1055 6. K1054 7. K1053 8. K1052 9. K1051 10. K1050 11. K1049 12. K1048 13. K1047 14. K1046 15. K1045 16. K1044 17. K1043 18. K1042 19. K1041 20. K1040 21. K1039 22. K1038 23. K1037 24. K1036 25. K1035 26. K1034 27. K1033 28. K1032 29. K1031 30. K1030 31. K1029 32. K1028 33. K1027 34. K1026 35. K1025 36. K1024 37. K1023 38. K1022 39. K1021 40. K1020 41. K1019 42. K1018 43. K1017 44. K1016 45. K1015 46. K1014 47. K1013 48. K1012 49. K1011 50. K1010 51. K1009 52. K1008 53. K1007 54. K1006 55. K1005 56. K1004 57. K1003 58. K1002 59. K1001 60. K1000 61. K1009 62. K1008 63. K1007 64. K1006 65. K1005 66. K1004 67. K1003 68. K1002 69. K1001 70. K1000 71. K1009 72. K1008 73. K1007 74. K1006 75. K1005 76. K1004 77. K1003 78. K1002 79. K1001 80. K1000 81. K1009 82. K1008 83. K1007 84. K1006 85. K1005 86. K1004 87. K1003 88. K1002 89. K1001 90. K1000 91. K1009 92. K1008 93. K1007 94. K1006 95. K1005 96. K1004 97. K1003 98. K1002 99. K1001 100. K1000 101. K1009 102. K1008 103. K1007 104. K1006 105. K1005 106. K1004 107. K

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minds
make weak
moves

Rock & jazz records of the month.

THE TIMES 1-7 DECEMBER 1984

SATURDAY

19

REVIEW

Proud sounds of muted genius

Curtis Amy: Katanga (Affinity AFF128)
Ike Quebec: John Hardee: The Complete Blue Note Forties Recordings (Mosaic MRA-107)
Ike Quebec: Blue and Sentimental (Blue Note BST 84089)
Sonny Clark: Leapin' and Lopin' (Blue Note BST 84041)

Dupree Bolton made his first recording in 1945, his second in 1959, and his third in 1961. Before, between, and in the 21 years since, only silence. Some people nevertheless feel that he may have been – and, for all anyone seems to know, may still be – among the greatest of jazz trumpeters.

Eleven solos, three photographs, one composition and a sole recorded encounter with a journalist (eliciting a single quotable remark: "When I was 14, I left home") are all that remain. Surely only Buddy Bolden, who left no recordings at all, managed to keep himself a better secret.

Whatever his fate, the evidence of Dupree Bolton's statue rests on his recordings. The first, as a member of the trumpet section of Buddy Johnson's orchestra on the New York session which produced the rhythm 'n' blues hit "Since I Fell For You" and three other titles, can be discounted. The second was an electrifying classic of the hard-bop genre called *The Fox*, by a quintet under the leadership of the tenor saxophonist Harold Land, cut originally for the small HiFi Jazz label and happily restored to the catalogues a few years ago as *Contemporary S7619*. The third was *Katanga*; thanks to the London-based Affinity label, the complete output of this extraordinary musician is once again available.

Conceived at a time when the innovations of John Coltrane and Ornette Coleman were spreading like ripples across the lake of modern jazz, *Katanga* aims a few degrees to the left of the strict, almost obsessive



Sex supreme: Ike Quebec in full flow at a studio session

classicism of *The Fox*, and there are transparent attempts to imitate the modal structures and circular rhythms pioneered by Coltrane and Miles Davis.

Bolton's tone is not big, but it is capable of a wonderful flexibility, some of its shadings as sudden and fleeting as tiny clouds crossing the sun on a summer day. He is as comfortable with the stately, almost baroque tragedy of his ballad solo on "You Don't Know

Another well-kept secret from the middle years of jazz has been Ike Quebec, a tenor saxophonist who recorded for the Blue Note and Savoy labels in the 1940s and again for Blue Note in the few years up to his untimely death from cancer in

1963, at the age of 44.

A most beautiful player, in the big-toned, overtly virile tradition of Coleman Hawkins and Ben Webster but with an early sympathy for the sounds of bebop, he can be heard in his salacious days in the encyclopedic four-disc *Mosaic* box which pairs his recordings with those of John Hardee, another overlooked tenorist from the Forties mainstream. Rare and unissued takes are included, superbly catalogued and annotated, with *Mosaic's* usual scholarly flair, and "Blue Harlem", Quebec's hit of 1944, is the pick of the bunch.

Latter-day Quebec – lighter in tone, but dialectically unchanged – can be heard on *Blue and Sentimental*, from 1962, on which he is teamed with a rhythm section of modernists Grant Green (guitar), Paul Chambers (bass) and Philly Joe Jones (drums). On his later recordings, one is struck most of all by the imperturbable maturity of Quebec's wide-grained sound and insouciant behind-the-beat attack.

Quebec also turned up in 1961 on one track of another sought-after Blue Note album now reissued in France by Pathé-Marconi (and made available in Britain by EMI), and his work on "Deep in a Dream" does nothing to damage the favoured status Sonny Clark's "Leapin'" and "Lopin'" enjoys in the hearts of hard-bop collectors, thanks also to an unusually fine performance by the trumpeter Tommy Turrentine and to superlative work by bassist Butch Warren and drummer Billy Higgins, perhaps the archetypal Blue Note rhythm team.

Richard Williams

• Mosaic records are available by mail order from 1341 Ocean Avenue, Suite 135, Santa Monica, California 90401: MRA-107 (Quebec/Hardee) \$39, MRS-104 \$47.50 including surface-mail charges.



Men of metal: Belfegore's line up is (from left) Meikel Clauss, Raoul Walton, Charly T

Pop polish for a mass market

Wham Make It Big (Epic EPC-86311)
Duran Duran Arena (Parlophone EX26 0308 1)
Belfegore (Eckta 960 376-1)

Pop formula, like those of the ambitious doctors Jekyll and Frankenstein, occasionally result in the most hideous misfits. Alternatively, they bring their mad inventors undiluted wealth.

Wham's George Michael seems to have mixed his chemicals just right. Wham's new album is as clinically pure as a laboratory product. *Make It Big* provides a lesson in teen appeal while leaving something for the mums and dads who will need to buy discs between now and Christmas to keep their young ones happy.

Make It Big is not particularly beguiling or original, but it is a highly polished and accomplished set. Michael seems to have studied the great vocal stylists like Stevie Wonder and Franck Valli in an effort to resurrect British soul. Having found his sound, he has adapted Michael Jackson's production values and multi-tracked his own voice into a fair approximation of Fleetwood Mac. The result: eight songs tailor-made for mass consumption on both sides of the Atlantic.

It's easy to sneer at the likes of Wham from a position of ageing intolerance, but on record they deliver some ambient pop that is seldom bland. *Make It Big* includes all their recent hits as well as a cover of the Isley Brothers' "If You Were There" and a song called "Credit Card Baby" – so disingenuously loathsome it has to be a joke.

Last year's pretty boys, Duran Duran, are also in the Christmas market with their predictable live *Arena* album, recorded at points all over the globe. Duran's formula, their photogenic features, glossy

video and catchy singles have a slightly risqué sex appeal.

Arena has been carefully mixed to disguise any technical hitches, and so lacks live atmosphere, but the band performs with sufficient sense of rock tradition to keep the teenagers satisfied. Duran's lyrics are not up to much – mildly titillating but hardly provocative.

The German-based metal

trio Belfegore, refuse to stick to any metal rules. They don't

have long hair, they are multi-racial and they use electrophones.

Produced by Connie Plank, Belfegore rhythms are more reminiscent of the German group Can than of any conventional "sword and sorcery" types, while their basic line up, two Americans and one German, add to the confusion.

Belfegore's guitars are pitched low and highly sequenced, the drums are wound tight and the bass provides counter-melody rather than obvious propulsion.

Singer Meikel Clauss brings an evocative melancholy to pieces like "Wake Up With Sirens" and "Comic With Rain Now". Not surprisingly, Belfegore evolved in the shadow of the Berlin Wall. They are making music for the nuclear age.

Max Bell



Wham wonder: George Michael

THE WEEK

Artists on the loose with Aesop

Galleries

Every Christmas, the Portal Gallery in London invites its artists to submit a painting for a theme show. Last year it was "Pigs". This year you might still catch a glimpse of a swine or two because Monday marks the opening of an exhibition of paintings based on Aesop's fables.

Little is known about Aesop, except that he was a Thracian slave who died in 564 BC, and that Socrates put some of the fables into verse during his imprisonment. The theme might be thought to appeal mainly to children, although the inclusion of work by Beryl Cook will make the show attractive to adults as well.

There are delicate, straightforward interpretations of some of the better known stories; Helen Williams's two small pictures – one a tiny embroidery of a bunch of grapes, the other a watercolour of the disgruntled fox – fit together neatly. Lions are popular choices and in Fred

North Wind, it is "a traveller" who is induced to remove his coat; in James McNaught's paintings it is a curvaceous blonde, first seen wrapped in furs against cool blue winds, then throwing off her coat in hot yellow sunshine.

Beryl Cook's painting of "A Bird in the Hand . . ." has her usual sly humour, puckered mouths and knowing glances. Her birds wear scarlet lipstick and high heels.

Visitors are likely to know at least one of the fables or one of the old saws – even if they were unaware of their provenance. It is a clever choice of subject and the styles are so varied that there is something to suit everyone. A Christmas treat.

Prudence Hone

"Aesop's Fables" opens at the Portal Gallery, 18a Grafton Street, London W1 (01 493 0706) on Mon. Until Jan 5. Mon-Fri 10am-5.45pm, Sat 11am-2pm.

Openings

TILLY LOSCH: Formerly a ballerina and star of C. B. Cochran's revues, Tilly Losch is now a much-collected artist. Her paintings have been described as "a curious and evocative world of magic".

Galaxy, 10 Grosvenor Street, London W1 (01 921 9703). Opens Wed. until Dec 21. Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-2pm.

MEMORIES OF THE EAST: Early Islamic art from the 9th to the 16th century including examples of woodwork from the Seljuk period as well as ceramics and glass.

Montaz Galerie, 42 Paddington Road, London W1 (01 5578). Opens Thurs. until Dec 20. Mon-Fri 10am-8pm, Sat 10.30am-4.30pm.

DESIGNS FOR DANCES: Amorini Gallery, Narrow Quay, Bristol (0272 299194). Until Jan 13.

Selected

AN ARCHITECTURAL QUEST: FROM BARCELONA TO THE BALI

Francis Kyle Gallery, 9 Maddox Street, London W1 (01 493 6870).

Until Jan 11. Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 11am-1pm.

Glynn Boyd-Harries' recent watercolours range from the austere neo-classicism of the Altes Museum in Berlin to the organic forms of Gaudi's Casa Mila in Barcelona. The show includes interiors of The Hermitage in Leningrad and Mackintosh's Willow Tea Rooms in Glasgow.

CHINESE ORNAMENT: THE LOTUS AND THE DRAGON

British Museum, London WC1 (01 536 1555). Until May 5. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-6pm.

Fascinating journey through decorative arts, from ancient Egypt and classical Greece to China. Lotus Patterns and acanthus scrolls were appropriated by Chinese porcelain painters to wonderful effect.

WILLIAM MORRIS: Graves Art Gallery, Surrey Street, Sheffield (0742 734781). Until Jan 6. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm.

Celebrating the 150th anniversary of Morris's birth, the exhibition concentrates on his designs for carpets, embroidered furniture, tapestries, stained glass and also his wallpaper and fabrics.

RICHARD HAMILTON: PRINTS

1938-83 Waddington Graphics, 2-4 Cork Street, London W1 (01 493 1865).

Until Dec 22. Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm.

Hamilton's impact comes from the juxtapositions of the bizarre and the commonplace. The show includes famous prints of Marilyn Monroe, Bing Crosby and Mick Jagger . . . and the vase of flowers.

PRUDENCE HONE: The Portal Gallery, 18a Grafton Street, London W1 (01 493 0706). Until Jan 5. Mon-Fri 10am-5.45pm, Sat 11am-2pm.

Hone's paintings of lions, tigers and leopards are as sumptuous as they are ferocious.

FRIDA KAHLO: National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London SW1 (01 834 2000).

Until Jan 13. Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 11am-1pm.

Kahlo's self-portraits are as revealing as they are powerful.

JOHN REARDON: Home Front, 5 and 8 Great Newport Street, London WC2 (01 240 1865). Tues-Sat 11am-7pm, until Jan 19.

Reardon's portraits of black people are as revealing as they are powerful.

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THE WEEK

Radio

YOU, THE JURY: Dick Taverne, the programme's first chairman, returns after 10 years for the start of a new series. The motion for the first debate, that "men are just as much in need of liberation as women," is proposed by Harry Rose, Professor of Social Sciences at Bradford University and opposed by Professor Hans Eysenck. As usual, the studio jury will vote both before and after hearing the arguments. Radio 4, today, 10.15-11pm.

MASTER'S INDIA: The ambitious drama series based on the Indian novels of John Masters reaches the third book, *The Lotus and the Wind*. It opens with Robin Savage, now 24 and a lieutenant in the army, and in love with Anne Hilditch, daughter of the new commander of Peshawar. William Nighy plays Robin, Juliet Stevenson is Anne and Nicky Henson is Robin's rival in love. Radio 4, tomorrow, 9.02-10pm.

EDUCATION NOW: A series of five phone-ins, *Man to Fri*, in which education experts will answer questions from listeners. The topics covered include the new 16-plus examination, parent power, children with special needs and training for a career. The programmes are on Radio 4, VHF each day from 2-2.30pm. The number to call to put questions is 0380 4411, while the programme and service numbers will be available on 01-933 0365.

AYCKBOURN PROFILED: Alan Ayckbourn, probably the most popular dramatist in Britain this year, celebrates his silver jubilee in the theatre. His first play, *The Square Cat*, had its premiere in Scarborough in 1959 and he has

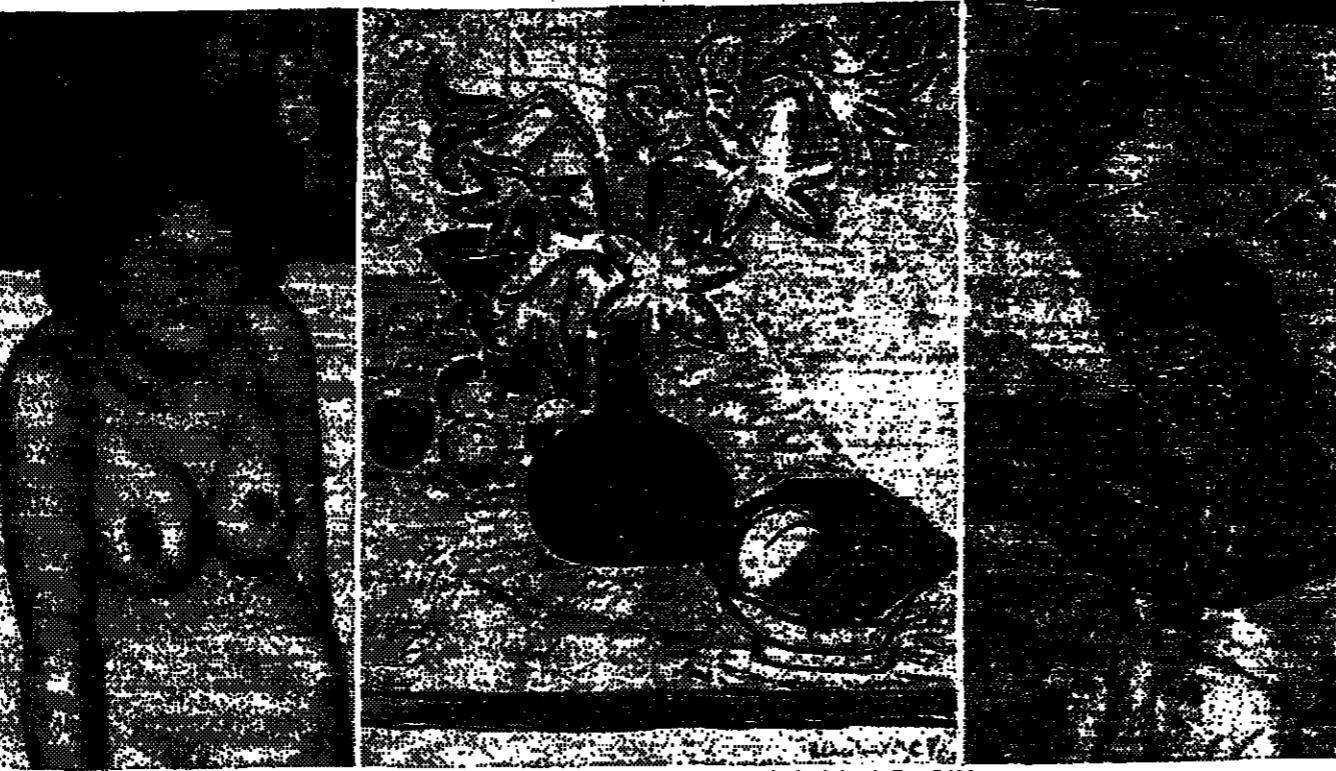
since written 30 more, including *Relatively Speaking*, *The Norman Conquests* and *Bedroom Farce*. In a *Kaleidoscope* profile, the critic Paul Allen talks to Ayckbourn, Sir Peter Hall and actors Richard Briers and Penelope Keith. Radio 4, Wed 9.45-10.15pm.

THE STATE OF THE NATION: The final two programmes in the series, both on English, are presented by Brian Redhead. He will be looking particularly at the impact of the recession on English society and among those giving their views are Lord Scarman, the Bishop of Liverpool (David Sheppard), the poet Norman Nicholson and the comedian Lee Dawson. Radio 4, Thurs, 7.40-8pm; the second programme is on Dec 13.

Auctions

BES RES FOR DOLLS: A huge doll collection with book its maker, Thomas Baillie, 25 years to complete and furnish with miniature antiques is expected to make more than £5,000 in a sale of dolls and related materials on Wednesday. Phillips, Blenheim Street, London W1 (029 6602). Viewing Tues 9am-5pm, Wed 9-11am. Sale Wed noon.

CHINESE CERAMICS: Next to impressionists, these are the biggest money-pullers in the art market, so Chinese ceramics are also on offer this week, with the big spenders in town for the Impressionists' sales. Christie's has the Piccasso collection of important Archaic bronzes and sells on 11am on Friday. *First and Early Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art* follows at 12.15 and 2.30pm. Viewing Wed and Thurs 9am to 5pm. Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (0171 9080).



Collection: Christie's La Comtesse (detail, left); View d'Anvers by Mathieu and Léonard (Marn and Frans I) (detail, right) by Egmont Scutte

RICK IMPRESSIONS: It's the week that the London auction rooms pull out all the stops to attract the big spenders to their sales of Impressionist and modern pictures. There is more serious money in this field than any other and prices are expected to top the million mark with important works by Picasso, Modigliani, Eggen Schiele and others.

All auctions are on view from Monday in addition to a special afternoon view at all three houses tomorrow and this

morning at Phillips. The sales are as follows. Monday: Impressionist and Modern paintings, Phillips, 2.30pm; Impressionist and Modern paintings and sculpture, Christie's, 6.30pm. Tuesday: Impressionist and Modern watercolours and drawings, Christie's, 10.30am; Impressionist and Modern watercolours and sculpture, Christie's, 2.15pm; Contemporary art, Christie's, 4pm; Impressionist and Modern paintings and sculpture, Sotheby's, 7pm. Wednesday: Impressionist and Modern paintings, Phillips, 11am; Impressionist and Modern drawings and watercolours, Sotheby's, 2.30pm. Thursday: Post-War and Contemporary art, Sotheby's, 10.30am. Phillips, 7 Blenheim Street, London W1 (029 6602); Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (0171 9060); Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171 8080).

THE CARRIER FREQUENCY: A collaboration between novelist Russell Hoban and Impact Theatre Co-operative. The setting is a 1,000 gallon pool of water. "Fragments of sound, messages from radio station, a bird who echo in this drowned world where people live with new fears and obsessions." Pete Brook directs Heather Ackroyd, Niki Johnson, Claire MacDonald, Richard Hawley, Graeme Miller, Steve Shill. Original music by Miller and Shill. ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (0171 3847). Preview Tues at 8pm; Press Night Wed at 7pm. Until Dec 22, Tues-Sun at 8pm.

SESSIONS WITH FRENCH & SAUNDERS: Dawn French, Jennifer Saunders, plus John Sessions, in a double-bill of new comedy cabaret. Kings Head Theatre Club, 115 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 (0171 21916). Opens Mon at 8pm (dinner at 7pm). Until Dec 15, Mon-Sat at 8pm (dinner at 7pm).

THE TIME OF THEIR LIVES: devised by the Burnt Bridges Company with director Penny Chems, writer Tamara Griffiths and composer Lindsey Cooper, this new show looks at three waitresses considering the state of the world. Live music and choreography back up dialogue from the all-woman company. The Place, 17 Duke's Road, London WC1 (0171 387 0031). First showings, Tues and Wed at 8pm. Moves to Watermans Arts Centre, 40 High Street, Brentford, Middlesex (081 1176) from Thurs to Dec 8; 8pm each night.

CORIOLANUS: Sir Peter Hall directs Ian McKellen in the title role, with Irene Worth as Volumnia and a company including Geoffrey Burridge, Basil Henson, Greg Hicks, Wendy Morgan, Judith Paris, Barrie Rutter, David Ryall, John Savident and Frederick Treves. There are 90 seats on stage, as "part of the action". Oliver (022 2229). Previews Today, Mon-Wed at 7.15pm; Fri at 8pm; Press Night Dec 15. In repertory.

Openings

THE HUMAN VOICE: By Jean Cocteau. Susannah York in her own translation of a play written for Berthe Bovary at the Comédie Française in 1930. As seen this year at Bromley, New York and at the Edinburgh Festival. This is the final production at the Gate at the Latchmere.

Gate at the Latchmere: 503 Battersea Park Road, London SW11 (0181 22620). Opens Mon at 7pm, until Dec 15, Tues-Sat at 8pm.

FILMS

Man at arms: Coriolanus with Ian McKellen

THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE AGED 13½: The West End premiere of Sue Townsend's best-selling book. It has been partly recast, but Adrian is still played by 16-year-old Simon Schubiger. Mandy Travis and Nigel Bennett are his parents. Graeme Watkinson directs and the music and lyrics are by Ken Howard and Alan Blakely. Wyndham's Theatre, Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (0171 3028). Previews: Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 8.15pm; matinees at 3pm; Opens Dec 12 at 7pm (no matinee Dec 12).

THEATRE

In preview

BOZZY: David McCall portrays James McCall in Frederic Mohn's one man play, a study of Dr Johnson's biographer, complete with bawdy recollections. Award-winning at Edinburgh Festival 1981. Directed by John Christopher. Old Red Lion, St John Street, EC1 (0171 7818). Opens Tues at 8pm, until Dec 22, Tues-Sun at 8pm.

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FILMS

Man at arms: Coriolanus with Ian McKellen

FULL MOON IN PARIS (15) Chelsea Cinema (0171 37424) Eve Rohmer's sly, elegant study of a girl trying to keep her man and her independence, with an enchanting performance from Pascale Ogier who died suddenly in October aged 24.

LE BAL (PG) Lumière (086 0681), Gate Notting Hill (021 2207/2275750)

Four decades of social and political history, plus a dash of sex, with a single, all-encompassing set and constantly changing dance styles. Etienne Scolari's award-winning film was adapted from the Théâtre du Campagnol's famous stage production; diverting, novel, and a touch hollow.

A CHRISTMAS STORY (PG) Plaza (037 1224). The latest film by Bob Clark, director of *A Christmas Story*, is an unexpected delight: a recreation of a small-town Christmas in the 1940s, seen through the eyes of a nine-year-old. Based on material by the humorist Jean Shepherd, full of bizarre details, and beautifully played by Peter Billingsley, Darren McGavin and Melford Dillion.

THE BROTHER FROM ANOTHER PLANET (15) Classic Oxford Street (036 0310)

Joyous send-up by maverick director John Sayles of all those science-fiction movies about strangers from outer space trying to understand earthly civilization – in this case, Harien. With Joe Morton as the black extra-terrestrial.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION (15) ABC Fulham Road (071 2036)

Classic Tottenham Court Road (036 6143)

Black humorist Paul Bartel (*Eating Raoul!*) turns his hand to the scandal press in another irreverent look at contemporary America.

Nancy Allen as the ambitious reporter leading a double life.

Never mind the quality, feel the advance promotion

Financiers, distributors and

and managers may rub their

hands over the impending

British release of *Ghosts*.

But the critics can only twiddle

their thumbs.

These films make us redundant;

whatever we say, audiences will

flock to them, primed by months

of publicity from America,

and the knowledge that *Ghosts*

has become Columbia's biggest

box-office success.

American critics were no better off

when the films first opened in June,

for both had been garlanded

with carefully orchestrated

promotion campaigns, not to

mention spin-off merchandise.

He believes that the use of

elaborate costumes and heavy

masks limit an actor's perfor-

mance, and experimented with

a group of students to find a

different way to present the

stories. His adaptation began as

a short children's show and was

then expanded and put on last

year at the New Vic's studio

theatre in Bristol.

This is the first professional

production, staged by Geof-

frey Buckley and designed by

Liz Fjelle.

Christopher Warman

Jungle Book, Adelphi (036 7611).

Opens Tues until Jan 26. Mon-Sat

at 7pm, matinees Wed and Sat 3pm

at 8pm (dinner at 7pm).

It's the week that the

London auction rooms pull out

all the stops to attract the big

spenders to their sales of

Impressionist and modern

paintings.

MONDAY: Impressionist and

Modern paintings, Phillips,

2.30pm; Impressionist and

Modern paintings and sculpture,

Christie's, 6.30pm.

TUESDAY: Impressionist and

Modern paintings and sculpture,

Christie's, 10.30am.

WEDNESDAY: Impressionist and

Modern paintings and sculpture,

Christie's, 2.15pm; Contem-

porary art, Christie's, 4pm;

Impressionist and Modern

watercolours, Sotheby's,

7pm.

THURSDAY: Post-War and Contem-

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THE TIMES
FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Ebullient Kalms must work with the Currys

Mr Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, was in ebullient form yesterday when his bid for Currys went unconditional. "It's a great day for us," he rhapsodized, "and the last thing I want now is blood on the boardroom carpet. We want to meet the Curry family, and to start applying the Dixons formula. We're both retailers, we speak the same language, and can do dramatically well together. Let's forget about the rows."

According to Mr Kalms, who realizes a boyhood dream with Dixons' £250 million purchase of Currys, the first thing he wants to do with Currys is to review the buying procedures, and develop the product range. "The High Street can look forward to the rejuvenation of an old friend. He said, adding that Dixons' trading in the run-up to Christmas was shooting ahead.

At Morgan Grenfell, Mr Roger Seelig conceded that it was a very close run thing. The bid was declared unconditional around noon, and by 3 pm, Dixons had received 51.44 per cent of valid acceptances. Yesterday morning's postbag had brought some withdrawals. The percentages were very tight.

Six hours after the bid went unconditional, Currys' board had still not conceded defeat. Mr Terry Curry was locked in a boardroom meeting and could not be disturbed.

The size of the Curry family holding has been variously estimated at 30-40 per cent. Working off the lower figure meant that Dixons needed to win 70 per cent acceptances from the remaining shareholders to win control. Dixons' victory stemmed from a combination of hard pounding and institutional support. The Curry family's hostility never wavered throughout the bid. The virtue of the SG Warburg defence lay in securing a takeover price far closer to the underlying value of the assets, and more than double the pre-bid price in the market.

Effectively the institutions collectively have now put a top management team in contact with high quality retail assets. The new group is formidable, with pro forma sales and assets of £750 million and £50 million respectively. Minimum, if any, earnings dilution should flow from the deal.

Though the City has made its perception of Dixons' improved quality of earnings clear - the Dixons share price has risen throughout the deal - the final conclusion may be a little farther off. It is possible that the Curry family, if it accepts Dixons' offer, will play a powerful role since it could end up with around 12 per cent. Persistent rumours have surfaced throughout the bid of a white knight in the wings, and assuming that the Curry stake is homogenous, then Mr Kalms and his team starts operating with a large Trojan horse.

VAT on buildings a racing certainty

The debate on extending value added tax coverage is now in full swing. Everyone expects the Chancellor to do something evil in his next Budget, whether it be to books, newspapers, children's clothes, food or any of the other products which are now zero-rated.

In September, the European Commission announced that it was pursuing a legal challenge to Britain's zero-ratings on new non-residential construction, newspaper advertisements and news services, certain water and sewerage supplies, animal feedstuffs, fuel and power supplies

to industry, and industrial protective helmets and boots.

The Chancellor and his Treasury colleagues have repeatedly declared their aim of shifting the taxation burden from taxes on earnings to taxes on spending. The image is of Mr Nigel Lawson and the Europeans in Brussels forming an irresistible alliance to root out Britain's pockets of VAT exemption.

An alternative interpretation is provided by Mr Jamie Stevenson, formerly economics director of the Building Employers' Confederation and recently recruited by the stockbrokers Savory Millin as a building analyst. Mr Stevenson says that while the Chancellor would like to have widened the VAT net to cover non-residential construction in the next Budget, he is now committed to fighting the Commission in the European Court of Justice.

The outcome, he predicts, will be a victory for the Commission, and a ruling that Britain must comply with the EEC Sixth Directive on VAT.

The building industry could benefit from such a delay through a short-term building boom. Funds and developers would bring forward plans against the certainty of VAT in 1987.

The Treasury does not see things in the same way. It argues that there is no inconsistency between defending the general principle of zero-rating for certain products in Britain, and at the same time reducing the list of products outside the VAT net.

Non-residential new construction has always been a curious exemption. Mr Lawson tackled the politically difficult area of home improvements and extensions in his last Budget. He is unlikely to touch the politically explosive area of VAT on new homes. VAT on non-residential new construction therefore looks a racing certainty, despite Mr Stevenson's two-year delay scenario, for the March Budget.

Great and universal

Sir Isaac Wolfson built a retailing empire which without a hint of modesty he called Great Universal Stores. He is a legendary figure who, save briefly in the early days, did not court personal publicity. His son, Sir Leonard, who now directs GUS's fortunes, is also a private man, preferring to let the light of publicity fall on the business and not on himself. There is a third man, Mr Harold Bowman, who for 20 years, has had the delicate job of striking the right balance between Isaac's and Leonard's preference for privacy and the pressing interest of newspapers in the mighty GUS. His success in drawing the dividing lines has been remarkable: a model in an unusually difficult area of corporate public relations.

In the course of 20 years Harold Bowman has got to know personally more financial editors and reporters than any other company director in Britain. If they can write a story about him, he could write a book about them. This evening, for the sixteenth time, Harold and his courageous wife Dene will give their annual Christmas cocktail party for their Fleet Street friends and guests from business and the City.

It is only the gathering of its kind - uniquely composed and for that reason, a tribute to a rare man.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bid for East Lancashire Paper lifted

British Syphon Industries has made an improved and final offer for East Lancashire Paper Group worth £5.6 million in shares and £5.45 million in cash or loan notes. The share offer is unchanged, but the cash and loan note alternative values East Lancashire shares at 100p, against a previous cash offer of 96p. East Lancashire has not decided on its reply.

G M Firth, the steel stockist and share dealing company, has raised its stake in East Lancashire to 13.34 per cent from 12.75 per cent. East Lancashire's shares closed down 4p at 107p.

TYNE TEES TELEVISION Holdings has increased pretax profits for the year to September 30 from £2.3 million to £2.6 million. Turnover increased from £40.5 million to £46 million. The final dividend of 7.5p makes 10.5p for the year, against 8.25p last year.

CHINA has signed a \$50 million (£41 million) joint venture contract with a British consortium to provide the country with advanced technology, electronic components and microcomputers. The partners are undisclosed, but Rair, the British microcomputer company is thought to be one.

WESTBURY HOMES, the Cheltenham builder, has been bought out by its senior management team for £12

Early start for Telecom option deals

By Philip Robinson

Traded options contracts in British Telecom will start less than 24 hours after dealings in the ordinary shares and a week earlier than planned.

The options are used as an investment hedge against the price of the underlying stock, when markets are likely to be volatile. Dealers have campaigned for some time to gain immediate access to the market, which some members of the Stock Exchange Council say should wait a week before starting.

However, the first boost to

the market came with the Jaguar flotation in August.

Dealing were allowed almost immediately.

The telecom decision estab-

lishes a pattern which will seal

victory for Mr David Steena-

partner in the stockjobbing firm

Pinchis Denny, and his col-

leagues who have been at the

heart of the campaign. First

deals will start at 9.35am on

Tuesday.

He said last night: "We feel

that it will now be the rules that

tradited options will be allowed

almost immediately in the big

market come with the

Jaguar flotation in August.

Dealing were allowed almost

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STOCK MARKET REPORT

Reduced forecasts hit BOC

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

BOC Group, the chemicals and gases supplier, was the biggest casualty in the dull top 30 share list yesterday, falling 7p to 253p.

That makes a two-day loss of 14p for the shares and takes the price further down into the low end of its trading range just ahead of next week's figures.

The trouble comes from profit forecast downgrades by the leading stockbroker Wood Mackenzie which says it is "increasingly concerned about the outlook for BOC's carbon graphite business and the turnaround which has recently been experienced in the US health care business".

As a result, Wood Mackenzie has trimmed its 1984 estimate from £134.6 million to £130 million, and chopped £15 million off the 1985 profit forecast. The broker now expects just £165 million next year.

Institutional investors are taking a firm interest in Siebe, the safety products and engineering group. Having met the chairman and managing director a week ago, two big buyers have picked up stock recently and helped push the share price more than 20p higher to 446p in the past two days. Half-year figures are due in mid-December and City men expect the previous £3.6 million to be comfortably beaten.

BOC made £14.8 million before tax last year, and reports full-year figures on Thursday.

Mr Paul Bosonnet, the finance director of BOC, says the worries expressed by the broker are not new. "Nothing has changed in the last three months, so I am just a little surprised by the timing of the downgrading".

The apparent slowdown in the US economy is a problem, Mr Bosonnet added, and makes predictions difficult. BOC has seen a decline in sales in specific areas of the US health care market, but there has been no general fall in the sector, says Mr Bosonnet.

Equities finished the week on a subdued note. On the final trading day before the British Telecom launch, dealing was extremely quiet with few investors prepared to move off the sidelines.

The recent Wall Street dullness was also an inhibiting influence.

Gilt yields again relaxed with trading thin. Prices moved in a narrow range, close to overnight levels.

Oils rallied from a poor start, cheered by a statement by Dr Subroto, Indonesia's oil minister, that Opec prices will be held.

Banks were disconcerted by Midland's free banking move and suggestions of much fiercer competition among the high street branches. Falls stretched into double figures with Midland, National Westminster and Lloyds each down 10p.

Johnson Matthey suffered another difficult session falling 5p to 68p. Dunlop, on the reorganization plans, dipped 2p to 24p, a new low.

Scamp Group again reflected this week's good figures, rising 14p to 404p.

Caparo Group, Mr Swraj Patel's private company, has bought 1.1 per cent of steel stockholder Brown & Tawse, up 1p to 119p, and offered to buy the 16.4 per cent stake now held by Mr Patel's quoted company, Caparo Industries, for 120p a share.

Caparo Industries has been building up its share in Brown & Tawse for several months. The sale will raise £4m and help reduce gearing following the recent £14m purchase of Fidelity. A bid for Brown & Tawse from Caparo is still a distinct possibility, unless another party comes in and offers more than 120p for Caparo Industries' stake.

Marshall Halifax shares dropped 20p to 218p after the group announced an on-for-five rights issue at a 22 per cent discount on the overnight price. It plans to raise £5.5 million, issuing 3.1 million shares at 185p each.

Interim figures accompanying the announcement showed pretax profits up 15 per cent to £3.4 million on a turnover ahead 13 per cent to £32.9 million. The interim dividend is 2p and Marshalls promises at least to maintain last year's 6p final. New funds are earmarked for further expansion. Last year the group spent £6.4 million on capital investment and plans £5 million on two projects which should take this year's spending to £7 million.

Market chat of another bid attempt on Newbold & Burton, a supplier of women's shoes to Marks & Spencer, is going the rounds again. A buyer recently tried to get a hold of 75,000

shares, a sizable chunk of the 4.2 million in issue. Neither the company nor its brokers are sure if the buyer went away satisfied, and in the meantime the share price has

known for its Monopoly board game - slid 15p to 505p after the deadline passed for Mr Robert Maxwell to increase his 50p-a-share bid. Mr Maxwell's offer stays open until December 13.

Shares of Alfred Preedy, the confectioner and tobacconist, have been strong, closing 2p higher at 116p yesterday. *Panmare Gordon*, the stockbroker, expects current year profits of £1.3 million and £1.7 million in the following year. Analysts Mr John Bagwell and Mr Gordon Lee say the share rating is well below the stores sector "giving support to a strong purchase recommendation".

drifted pennies lower to 94p.

In May the company disclosed an "unsolicited bid approach", but nothing came of it, and word from the company is that there have been no other approaches since then.

Newbold continues to benefit from the success of Marks & Spencer footwear sales, and City analysts are looking forward to a good set of figures for the year ending in December.

Style, the shoe retailer which remains a takeover favourite, held firm in an otherwise flat stores sector, trading at 143p.

Woolworth felt the harsh effects of profit forecast downgrades. A couple of leading broking firms have pushed their estimates back below £50 million for the year, and the shares dipped again today to 50p, down 7p.

Analysts at Capel-Cure Myers are sticking to their £53 million forecast for now, but will take another look at the figures once the volatile Christmas trading period is over.

Habitat Mothercare continued to take a knock, having disappointed the best City expectations on Thursday with a profit of £1.23 million interim profits. The shares fell 10p to 364p yesterday.

Other leading stores saw pennies taken off their share prices as pre-Christmas jitters hit the market. The City heard worrying tales of slack trade in the shops, caused largely by the unusually mild weather.

Debenhams fell 3p to 209p.

Harris Queensway 2p to 210p, MFI 5p to 228p, Boots 4p to 186p and Burton Group 14p to 383p, ending its recent strong run.

John Waddington, the paper and packaging group - best systems have been successfully launched.

£20m plan to rebuild Royal Exchange

By Judith Huntley
Commercial Property Correspondent

The Royal Exchange building, one of the City's most prominent landmarks, may soon undergo a £20 million facelift. Guardian Royal Exchange, the assurance company which occupies the building with the London International Financial Futures Exchange, is planning to renovate the listed building to provide 78,000 sq ft of modern office space within the existing structure.

GRE has applied to the City of London's planners and the Department of the Environment to raise the roof on the Exchange and add two extra floors. The barrel vaulted roof and familiar dome would be restored and replaced on top of the new office space.

If planning permission is granted, GRE's 300 staff will move out of the building while work is being done but Little will remain. It is not known whether GRE would return to the building after restoration.

A rather different statement emerged from the Star Computer Group. Having seen the share price plummet in the past few days, the directors said "we know of no reason for the sharp fall".

They added that "although the first months of the current financial year were difficult, trading has subsequently improved and the group's new convergent technologies-based systems have been successfully launched".



Raising the roof: how the Royal Exchange will look after the proposed facelift

Gresham Committee, stands to benefit. GRE could sub-let space in the Exchange as the head lessee.

Negotiations are underway between GRE and the Gresham Committee as to how the refurbished building would be valued and what share each would contribute and receive from the project. Hillier Parker,

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES		STANDARD CATHODES		LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL	
Broker	Weight in gms per metric tonne	Three months	110.00-110.20	Broker	Weight in gms per metric tonne
		110.00-111.00			
RUBBER				STANLEY LTD	
Feb		638-10		1981-1982	
Mar		642-10		1982-1983	
Apr		645-10		1983-1984	
May		648-10		1984-1985	
Jun		652-10		1985-1986	
Jul		655-10		1986-1987	
Aug		658-10		1987-1988	
Sep		662-10		1988-1989	
Oct		665-10		1989-1990	
Nov		670-10		1990-1991	
Dec		675-10		1991-1992	
Jan		678-10		1992-1993	
Feb		682-10		1993-1994	
Mar		685-10		1994-1995	
Apr		688-10		1995-1996	
May		692-10		1996-1997	
Jun		695-10		1997-1998	
Jul		698-10		1998-1999	
Aug		702-10		1999-2000	
Sep		705-10		2000-2001	
Oct		708-10		2001-2002	
Nov		711-10		2002-2003	
Dec		714-10		2003-2004	
Jan		717-10		2004-2005	
Feb		720-10		2005-2006	
Mar		723-10		2006-2007	
Apr		726-10		2007-2008	
May		729-10		2008-2009	
Jun		732-10		2009-2010	
Jul		735-10		2010-2011	
Aug		738-10		2011-2012	
Sep		741-10		2012-2013	
Oct		744-10		2013-2014	
Nov		747-10		2014-2015	
Dec		750-10		2015-2016	
Jan		753-10		2016-2017	
Feb		756-10		2017-2018	
Mar		759-10		2018-2019	
Apr		762-10		2019-2020	
May		765-10		2020-2021	
Jun		768-10		2021-2022	
Jul		771-10		2022-2023	
Aug		774-10		2023-2024	
Sep		777-10		2024-2025	
Oct		780-10		2025-2026	
Nov		783-10		2026-2027	
Dec		786-10		2027-2028	
Jan		789-10		2028-2029	
Feb		792-10		2029-2030	
Mar		795-10		2030-2031	
Apr		798-10		2031-2032	
May		801-10		2032-2033	
Jun		804-10		2033-2034	
Jul		807-10		2034-2035	
Aug		810-10		2035-2036	
Sep		813-10		2036-2037	
Oct		816-10		2037-2038	
Nov		819-10		2038-2039	
Dec		822-10		2039-2040	
Jan		825-10		2040-2041	
Feb		828-10		2041-2042	
Mar		831-10		2042-2043	
Apr		834-10		2043-2044	
May		837-10		2044-2045	
Jun		840-10		2045-2046	
Jul		843-10		2046-2047	
Aug		846-10		2047-2048	
Sep		849-10		2048-2049	
Oct		852-10		2049-2050	
Nov		855-10		2050-2051	
Dec		858-10		2051-2052	
Jan		861-10		2052-2053	
Feb		864-10		2053-2054	
Mar		867-10		2054-2055	
Apr		870-10		2055-2056	
May		873-10		2056-2057	
Jun		876-10		2057-2058	
Jul		879-10		2058-20	

PERKS Investment club offers deals at a discount

Anyone interested in tempting discounts on a wide range of investments should look carefully at a new investment club set up by R. J. Temple, the licensed dealer in securities.

Membership of Investors' Circle costs £4 to join and then £35 a year. For this you get useful perks such as free membership of the IPC Legal Advisory Club and two years' free subscription to the personal finance magazine *Money* (normally worth £30).

But membership of the club also brings impressive discounts on some investments. Members who take out a medical insurance policy with either BUPA or Private Patients' Plan will receive a 15 per cent discount on their subscriptions.

For unit trust investors the club provides bonuses of 1.5 per cent on units purchased; on single premium bonds there is a 2.5 per cent bonus and 1 per cent on guaranteed income bonds. For investments in regular premium contracts like life policies and pension plans members will normally get a 25 per cent discount in the first year.

So for a top rate taxpayer arranging a pension plan through the club with £100 a month premium will receive a £25 reduction. And after his £50 tax relief he will only in fact be paying £15 a month for the first year.

The discount on unit trusts offered to club members compares well with discounts obtainable from unit trust companies if you buy direct. Framlington, for instance, will give a 1.25 per cent discount if you are switching your money into Framlington's trusts.

Some groups offer as much as 2 per cent discounts.

These reductions are only available if you buy the units direct from the company itself and not through an intermediary. And you get no discount if you do not ask whether one is available.

£4m goes begging

Supplementary benefits amounting to £4 million a week are going unclaimed because most pensioners do not realize that they are eligible to claim. Some are too proud to inquire about their entitlement.

Age Concern has just published the 12th edition of its guide *Your Rights for Pensioners*. This covers the latest changes, many of which came into force only this week. The guide also explains clearly the benefits available and the claim procedures.

Other subjects covered include early retirement, benefit for disabled elderly people, benefit for residential care, income tax, NHS charges, legal help and travel concessions.

The guide is available from leading booksellers, at 65p.

Join the TSB

If you have digested British Telecom, prepare yourself for a second onslaught from the ace promoter of things financial, Dewe Rogerson, the City public relations firm which has won the contract for the privatization of the Trustees Savings Bank.

And do not waste time. Open a TSB account now, because it is certain that TSB account holders will be offered some sort of preferential share

deal. The formula for determining the preferential share allocation is bound to be some combination of the amount invested and the length of time the account has been in existence.

The TSB has all the advantages of the building societies - friendly, approachable image - without any of the disadvantages of the high street banks like nasty loans to Brazil, or difficult commercial customers. In recent years they have been rationalizing their operations, amalgamating their regional boards and they now have some dynamic management in place - all set to take on the other banks, and the building societies. This could be a share worth having.

Loans galore

Home loans, as large as you need for as little as 11.25 per cent, are on offer from the investment adviser Mr Paul Marks, of Chase de Vere. He explains: "The minimum loan is £40,000 but there is no maximum. We will also do endowment, straight repayment or pension loans, without charging any extra and there is no interest surcharge, however large the loan. We will also do remortgages on the same rates."

You can borrow up to 70 per cent of the property's value or purchase price (whichever is the lower) and the income multiple used to determine the



"According to your doctor we should halve the amount of the loan"

maximum loan is two and a half times joint incomes.

Those who need to borrow up to 50 per cent of the purchase price will have to pay an extra 0.25 per cent for their money. They will also be restricted to a loan no larger than two and a half times the principal wage earner's income. Details from Mr Paul Marks, Chase de Vere, 125 Pall Mall, London SW1. (Tel: 01-930 7242).

FREE BANKING

Midland breaks ranks of Big Four

Fifty per cent of former Midland Bank customers asked why they were closing their account cited bank charges as the main reason.

This is the background behind Midland's decision this week to join the Scottish banks, Williams & Glyn's, Yorkshire, the Co-op and National Giro banks in doing away with bank charges for customers who keep their accounts in credit.

It will be interesting to see how the other three High Street banks react to the Midland move which, there is no doubt, will be bound to encourage wavers, fed up with Lloyds, NatWest or Barclays charging for the privilege of borrowing their money, to take the plunge and move their bank account.

Recent moves by NatWest and Barclays have been in the opposite direction with both imposing higher charges (a flat £3 quarterly service fee) on accounts which dip below the £100 minimum balance.

* Below seven day deposit rate. ? Quarterly charge.

But just as all the banks have been obliged to follow the Barclays lead on Saturday opening, it seems likely that sooner or later the others will have to follow the Midland's initiative and cut charges.

However, they may take their time on this. If you are thinking

of making a move, now might be the time to review your finances.

One of the most useful accounts around is the Citibank Savings, Cheque Plus account which offers full cheque book facilities, free banking, and interest of 11.25 per cent on balances over £500 or 9.5 per cent between £1 and £500.

The only drawback is that you cannot have an overdraft. But if you run the Cheque Plus account in tandem with your High Street bank account, you should be able to reduce dramatically your bank charges if you pay them and earn useful interest on your cash balances.

If you want to maximize the return, work out how much cash you are drawing a month and transfer all the excess by standing order to the Citibank savings account.

You then have the convenience of being able to obtain cash from your High Street bank's machines, leaving only the minimum lying idle in your account earning no interest.

Even though you are not keeping the magical minimum £100 in your High Street bank account, your bank charges should be negligible because you are not issuing cheques.

Bear in mind, too, that you are not getting free banking with Lloyds, NatWest, Barclays and the TSB even if you do not pay bank charges. The minimum balance of £100 means that you forgo interest on this amount

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank 9.75% Adam & Company 9.71% Barclays 9.74% BCCI 9.75% Citibank Savings 11.25% Consolidated Crds 9.74% Continental Trust 9.72% C. Hoare & Co. 9.74% Lloyds Bank 9.74% Midland Bank 9.74% Nat Westminster 9.74% TSB 9.74% Williams & Glyn's 9.74% Citibank NA 9.74%

1 Mortgage Rate Basis:

* Day deposit on sums of under £10,000, 6 1/4%, £10,000 up to £50,000, 7 1/4%, £50,000 and over, 9%.

STOCK MARKET INVESTORS

If you always manage to buy and sell badly, why not use a home computer to improve your investment selection and results? Send for our FREE catalogue of Acorn, Sinclair and Commodore investment software and services.

MICRO INVESTOR

Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 3QH Tel: 081-862 8000 Telex: 6004722

Kleinwort Benson

With effect from 1st December 1984 the Kleinwort, Benson Limited mortgage rate will be 11.5% per annum

Up to 14% per annum 10.5% NET Deposit Accounts

18% p.a.
FIXED interest paid gross PLUS BONUS

You get more than just high interest with Masterplan.

Please pay to National Westminster Bank PLC, 191 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford CM2 0LN, Account No. 55713270 for the credit of M&G Securities Limited (SAVINGS PLAN ACCOUNT), quoting Account No. (LEAVE BLANK) the sum of £ .00 on the day of each month/quarter until further order in writing from me, and debit my account with you from time to time with such payments.

From (SURNAMe AND INITIALS) SIGNATURE ADDRESS

NO INSURANCE - NO COMMITMENT

I WISH TO SUBSCRIBE £ .00 (min. £20) each month to the M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan and enclose a cheque (payable to M&G Securities Limited) for my first subscription of £ .00 (you may wish to start your plan with a lump sum). I wish to link my plan to the Fund circled.

BLOCK CAPITALS, PLEASE

02 AMERICA'S FULL FORENAME(S)

SURNAME

04 ADDRESS

POSTCODE SP 484934

This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

BANKERS ORDER DO NOT DETACH FROM ENROLMENT FORM

TO: DATE: 19

ADDRESS

Please pay to National Westminster Bank PLC, 191 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford CM2 0LN, Account No. 55713270 for the credit of M&G Securities Limited (SAVINGS PLAN ACCOUNT), quoting Account No. (LEAVE BLANK) the sum of £ .00 on the day of each month/quarter until further order in writing from me, and debit my account with you from time to time with such payments.

From (SURNAMe AND INITIALS) SIGNATURE ADDRESS

THE M&G GROUP

150

Retirement advice

If you are coming up for retirement, you might fancy a bit of advice from the PFA which is running open retirement counselling courses from next spring. You will, however, have to persuade your employer that it is worthwhile coughing up the £100 plus VAT it will cost for the full two-day seminar.

Each seminar provides a programme covering financial planning, health, leisure, living arrangements and opportunities for further employment, with a team of experts selected for their technical skills in these areas.

Everyone is given a comprehensive pack of notes, a booklet and an audio cassette at the end of the course.

If you want to know more, details are available from Mr Roy Sims, Retirement Counselling Service, The Prudential, 142 Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH. (Tel: 01-405 9223).

before Christmas, write to Mr Seager and he will send you a voucher which can be used after Christmas but will ensure that when you do buy through him the commission gets passed on to PHAB.

PHAB is a charity which aims to help the physically handicapped become self-reliant. It runs youth clubs where able-bodied children mix with physically handicapped ones and learn how to deal with disability. You can obtain your voucher from Wheatsheaf Securities, President, Teddington TW1 6SP. Tel: 01-977 5554.

"The need for a £2 note is based on the requirement to avoid a five-to-one ratio between the lowest denomination note and the highest denomination coin, which can mean as many as nine coins being given in change for a £2 note. This is inefficient in terms of distribution costs in addition to the problems facing retailers and the public," PHAB explains.

Home and abroad

The first major competition on national housing systems has just been published by the International Union of Building Societies.

The author, Mr Mark Boles, deputy secretary general of the British Building Societies Association, has covered housing finance from the Philippines and South Korea to Canada and the United States.

The book, called National Housing Finance Systems, contains a mine of statistical information, including a study which shows that 70 per cent of families in both Honduras, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela own their own homes.

The book is co-published by the International Union of Building Societies and Croon Helm and is available at £20, plus £1 postage and packing. From Croon Helm, Provident House, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP2 1AT.

BARCLAYCARD SCHEME

Limited protection for holidaymakers

The insurance scheme announced by Barclaycard this week to protect its customers from holiday tour company collapses will certainly be a boost to many holidaymakers. But it is not as simple as it sounds.

The only minor irritation with the Citibank account is that interest is taxable and will have to be declared. But after next April the banks will be obliged to deduct basic rate tax at source, in line with building society practice, so even this drawback will disappear for many.

An alternative is one of the bank building society link-ups. The Alliance/Bank of Scotland scheme is convenient and ensures that you avoid bank charges - at a price. You need a minimum of £500 to open the account of which £250 goes into the Bank of Scotland current account half of the package. When the balance on The Bank of Scotland account falls to £100, it is automatically topped up from the Alliance Building Society account, thereby ensuring that you maintain the minimum for free banking.

If you want to maximize the return, work out how much cash you are drawing a month and transfer all the excess by standing order to the Citibank savings account.

You then have the convenience of being able to obtain cash from your High Street bank's machines, leaving only the minimum lying idle in your account earning no interest.

Even though you are not keeping the magical minimum £100 in your High Street bank account, your bank charges should be negligible because you are not issuing cheques.

Bear in mind, too, that you are not getting free banking with Lloyds, NatWest, Barclays and the TSB even if you do not pay bank charges. The minimum balance of £100 means that you forgo interest on this amount

Lorna Bourke

Richard Thomson

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FAMILY MONEY

COLLECTING

£50,000 tag for rare sovereign

The Royal Mint was within weeks of churning out thousands of coins bearing the portrait of Edward VIII when he abdicated in December 1936.

Although none of the Edward VIII coins went into official circulation, several trial coins have found their way on to the collectors' market.

One of these rare specimens, a proof gold sovereign which comes up for auction next Friday at Spink & Son in London, is expected to fetch £50,000. Only five other Edward VIII gold sovereigns have been tracked down — the Mint owns three, one of which is kept at the British Museum, another is in the Queen's own collection, and at least one other is in private hands.

The coin, dated 1937, shows St George and the dragon on one side and a portrait of Edward VIII by Thomas Humphrey Paget on the other.

The new King refused to follow a 300-year-old tradition which dictates that no monarch should face in the same direction as his predecessor. Edward felt that his left side was his best and refused a compromise put forward by the Mint that his left side features should be transferred to his right side for the coin portrait.

A silver Edward VIII florin, sold at Sotheby's last month as part of Paget's widow's estate, made £3,190. The coin was presented to the artist as a memento of his work which was never going to be seen by the public. The reverse side of the coin has been milled almost flat, probably by the Mint to debase its value to collectors.

The uncrowned king still arouses passionate feelings. The New Octavians Society was founded this autumn to campaign for the early release of Edward VIII's papers, the creation of a museum at his Fort Belvedere home near Windsor, and the public display of his portrait.

The secretary of the society, Mr Michael Bloch, who helped to sort out the former king's affairs after his death in 1972, is promising to release the papers in his possession even though official documents are being locked away until 2037.

The Edward VIII coinage may be out of your price range, but the stamps which were issued can still be bought for around 60p for the set of four (1p, 1d, 1½d and 2½d).

Richard Thomson

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Gifts that will gain in value

There is nothing so depressing as the sight of Christmas presents being eaten, drunk and jumped on so that by Boxing Day there is little more than the dustbin overflowing with wrapping paper to remind you of the time and effort taken in choosing gifts.

But there are masses of presents which will not only last beyond the 12 days of Christmas but will also gain in value.

For a really extravagant present, how about share in a whole forest of Christmas trees? Some forestry management companies are willing to arrange co-ownership schemes.

For a relatively small outlay, you can own a percentage of a forest which you can visit, as well as enjoying heavy capital appreciation, mostly courtesy of the taxman. Forestry Investment Management runs a scheme which will take investments of £2,000; other schemes require considerably more.

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stockbroker should be happy to buy a parcel of shares as a present no matter how tiny. The firm will still get its minimum commission.

Hans Goveit, for instance, charges a minimum of £15 plus value added tax on equities and £12.50 plus VAT on Government securities for bargains up to £700.

Banks will also buy shares for you. Lloyds will not add anything to the brokers' commission but others, such as Barclays, add £5 plus VAT. These rates make very small

Some banknotes are likely to prove a good investment

purchases uneconomic, but you can buy gifts through the Post Office where the minimum charge is £1 for deals up to £250. So a £20 gilt-edged gift would cost 5 per cent in commission charges.

A more sparkling gift from the National Savings Sack would be premium bonds. The minimum purchase of five £1 bonds opens the chance of winning a real fortune or one of Ernie's £50 sweeteners. You can buy gift vouchers from the Post Office which can be exchanged for National Savings securities in 25 denominations and upwards.

For a different sort of gamble, you could buy one of the

beautiful Chinese Bonds now sold for their pictorial charms. Even now and then a rumour sweeps the City that the Chinese Government is going to repay its international debts, giving the bonds a real value.

Buying gold as a Christmas present is always popular. The value of sovereigns, Krugerrands or Canadian Maple Leafs fluctuates with the price of gold.

Krugerrands have the lowest mark-up on the underlying gold price — 5 per cent on the 1oz coin which sells for around £290 plus VAT if it is brought into this country rather than being stored off-shore somewhere like Jersey. The half-ounce coin is about £153, the quarter-ounce £80 and the one-tenth-ounce £36.

Children might appreciate a Money Matters pack from the Royal Mint with wall charts and booklets explaining coins through the ages and the minting process (price £4.50 from Royal Mint P.O. Box 500, Cardiff CF1 1YY).

The hobby of collecting bank notes is growing and some notes are likely to prove a good investment. You could buy a prized serial number note signed by the current chief cashier, Mr David Somerset, for as little as £6, but it would be more fun to search for a note with a significant date — say, the birth year of the recipient.

After 1928, only the £5 note carried a date and this ceased in 1956. A 1947 £5 note would cost around £2 and one from around 1934 to 1943 about £45

You can buy off-the-peg collections from single countries from £185, with the Ascension collection at £110 and the Falkland Islands collections ranging from £175 to £345 for a selection of stamps catalogued at £10.

Unfortunately, jewellery is seldom a wise investment, but you could find an antique piece which may increase in value as it is worn — or you could buy a platinum bar which must be cut above a mere gold slab.

Johnson Matthey produces a five gramme bar at £67 and a 10 gramme bar at £129, including VAT.

You might not think of unit trusts as a sparkling gift but

Foreign and Colonial think its F & C Capital Fund is a good present to give the under-18s to interest them in high finance. It is taking gift investments as low as £20 if the present is for a child, rather than the usual minimum of £50.

Children are usually drawn to the range of freebies offered by the banks and building societies with junior accounts. Halifax Building Society has produced a Christmas gift cheque starting at £5 which can be credited to a new or existing savings account. The under-11s are automatically enrolled in the Halifax Little Xmas Club and given a money box in the shape of a house, a badge, stickers and a height chart.

Yorkshire Bank has also made a special effort for Christmas and produced a seasonal candle gift pack for the bubble money box which is given to every child opening a savings account. Parents or grandparents can open an account on a child's behalf.

But many of the year-round packages are more attractive — these are the Adopt-A-Duck idea from Greenwich Building Society, which offers children the chance to join the Wildfowl Trust's scheme and take a special interest in the fortunes of a duck they have named. They are also given a chart with a duck sticker for every deposit of £1 or more and 6.75 per cent interest.

Peckham Building Societies' Jumbo Savings Club offers an attractive return to junior savers plus free 200 tickets. Abbey National has signed up Mickey Mouse, who will send junior savers a birthday card every year, while Bristol & West has Snoopy, Cheltenham & Gloucester Paddington Bear, and Henry's Cat is with the Woolworths.

The banks which are about to offer their advantage of offering interest without deduction of tax are also keen to attract young savers.

The family of pigs created by National Westminster aims to keep children as loyal savers rather than allowing them to account-hop from bank to bank to pick up the initial pack of free goodies. When an account is opened, £1 out of the minimum £3 deposit goes towards the first china pig, and new pigs are added free as the account balance passes various milestones so that when it tops £100 the child will have the full family of five pigs.

Vivien Goldsmith

First National Securities Base rate

First National Securities Limited announces that with effect from 1st December 1984 its base rate for lending will be reduced to 11%.

First National Securities Ltd, First National House, College Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 1FB. Telephone: 01-861 1313.

MIDDLETON BUILDING SOCIETY NOTICE TO INVESTORS

As from 1st December 1984, the interest paid in Masterplan and Income Plus (4th issue) shares will be reduced as follows:

Balance	Income Plus	Masterplan
Up to £500	6.95%*	7.25% - 10.36%*
Up to £2,000	7.55% - 10.79%*	8.00% - 11.43%*
Up to £5,000	8.35% - 11.93%*	8.75% - 12.50%*
Up to £10,000	8.50% - 12.14%*	9.00% - 12.85%*
Over £10,000	9.00% - 12.85%*	9.50% - 13.57%*

*Gross annual equivalent when base rate tax paid.

All other share and deposit accounts currently on offer will be reduced by 1.00% per annum.

Accounts no longer on offer will be reduced by up to 1.00% per annum.

Contact your local Middleton Branch if you require further details.

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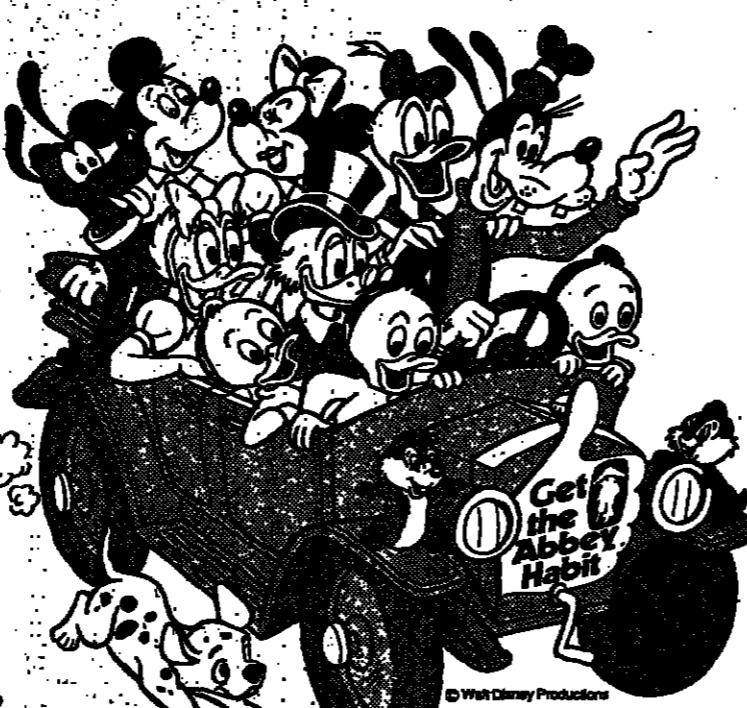
For details of a personal investment

management service contact:

C. J. How, Financial Consultant,
3 Beaufort Buildings, Spa Road,
Gloucester GL1 1XB.

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Give the Christmas Gift that makes saving fun!



An Abbey National Junior Savers account is the perfect present for a special young someone. It's a great habit to get them into. And they'll find saving can be fun. If the account is opened before Christmas, they can enter the great 101 Dalmatians Competition too. They may win one of three magical Poundstretch family trips to wonderful Walt Disney World. And every new Junior Saver gets a free 101 Dalmatians Fun Pack.

A pound is all you need to start them off. They'll get full adult interest rates on their savings. And most importantly, Abbey National are open when Junior Savers can get to them — after school and on Saturday mornings. The Christmas present that's best for their future — the Abbey National Junior Savers Club.

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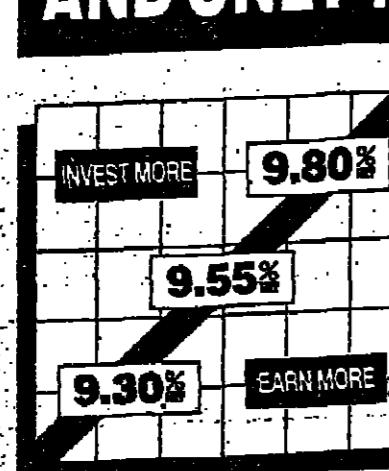
Only seven days' notice is needed for withdrawal; if you leave £10,000 or more invested, you can withdraw instantly.
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Are you stuck for ideas for Christmas presents?

F & C Unit Management can help. As a special Christmas offer, we are prepared to accept single investments of £20 (or more) in the F & C Capital Fund — providing the person receiving the present is under 18 on 25th December 1984.

This investment opportunity allows you to give a really worthwhile gift. By purchasing units in the F & C Capital Fund now, you will be providing a child with a growing investment for him or her future.

You can add to the initial investment at any time, in multiples of £20, to celebrate such occasions as birthdays, exam successes and future Christmases.

If we receive your cheque and completed application form before 7th December, we will make sure the unit certificate is posted to you, first class, by 14th December, so you can give the present personally on Christmas Day. Please post early to avoid the Christmas rush.

F & C Capital Fund

The F & C Capital Fund is a technology unit trust investing throughout the world in new and emerging growth industries, such as telecommunications, healthcare, biotechnology and microtechnology. It aims to provide maximum capital growth over the long term.

F & C Unit Management

F & C Unit Management Ltd is part of the £1,000 million Foreign & Colonial Management Group which has been looking after the interests of individuals and companies since 1868.

General Information

The Trust is authorised by the Department of Trade and Industry and constituted by Trust Deed. An initial charge of 5% is included in the price of units and there is an annual charge of 1% (+VAT) of the value of the Fund. Prices and yields are calculated and published daily in The Times, Financial Times and Daily Telegraph. Income distributions are made on 30 April and 31 October. Units are allocated at the price ruling when we receive your order. Units may be sold back at any time at a price not less than the bid price on the day we receive your instructions. Payment is normally made within 7 days of receipt of your renounced certificate. This offer is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

Manager: F & C Unit Management Limited, 1 Laurence Pountney Hill, London EC4R 0BA. Member of the Unit Trust Association.

F & C CHRISTMAS OFFER

To F & C Unit Management Limited,

c/o Manchester Unit Trust Administration Co Limited,

YACHTING

Organizers object to British catamaran

From Barry Pickthall
Marina Benalmadena

Thirty-three yachts, including a magnificently Spanish-built replica of the 39ft schooner America, set sail from Marina Benalmadena, on the Costa del Sol, at noon today on a 4,500-mile transatlantic dash to Santo Domingo, Haiti, in pursuit of prize-money of more than £11,000.

This inaugural race, called the Route of Discovery, has been arranged to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' voyage to the Americas, and has attracted many of the top French multihulls, together with Robin Knox-Johnson and his latest 60ft catamaran, British Airways 1.

Knox-Johnson, the sole British entrant, this is a proving trial for his 60ft Macalpine Downie design, which was commissioned in London three weeks ago. The craft dwarfs her nearest French rivals in terms of freeboard, and gives the sense of being one of the most sturdy in the fleet. It has not stopped the French committee from insisting that plywood covers be fitted over the yacht's deck hatches, and that the forward trampoline netting strung between the bows be significantly strengthened.

Knox-Johnson, the first non-sail solo circumnavigator of the world, has reluctantly agreed, after some argument, to add wood to fit over the Louwman deck hatch. But night was still refusing to do anything about the netting, saying that it was quite adequate and impossible to replace by 6pm yesterday.

This race is also a first test for six monohulls and their crews entered in next year's Whitbread round-the-world race. They include a Dutch entry, Nautis Innovation, skippered by Dirk Nautis; Marie Brizzi, formerly Charles Heidsieck, which is being crewed by seven French girls; two Spanish yachts, Fortuna Lights and Litor 43; the Swan 65i, Fazar, skippered by Michael Berner.

HOCKEY

Doubt over goalkeeper

By Sydney Friskin

David Aldridge, who has been capped 15 times for Great Britain and 26 times for England, is in the Norfolk Wanderers squad for the club championship team's division match at St Albans tomorrow. This is one of four games being played in this division, the winners in each case qualifying for the national rounds. The four losers play off on December 9 to find the fifth qualifier.

Among the other long-serving Wanderers players is Ian Phoenix, their sweep full back, formerly of London University. They have two rising young prospects from Kenya, Sunil Sharma in midfield and his brother Anil at forward. St Albans have a couple of problems in defence, with Hurst, their No 1 goalkeeper, and Ashby, a versatile deep defender, on the doubtful list. Hurst may not have recovered from a viral infection, and Ashby has been nursing a leg injury. Still, St Albans are well equipped in attack and defence.

In the Midlands, Leicester Wanderers, away at Edgbaston, have strong attacking resources which include Suki Obhi, formerly from the England Under-21 squad, at centre forward, and Pat.

RACKETS

Penn needs to work hard to catch Boone

William Boone's world championship challenge continues today at Queen's Club, where he begins with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 (6-4) win over John Penn in Montreal last Saturday (William Stephens writes). Boone needs to win only three more games so the early stages will be crucial.

Boone began aggressively in Montreal, serving brilliantly and hitting low, while Penn began diffidently, playing safe shots when he had the chance to play winners. However after an hour's stoppage because the court has become slippery from condensation Penn recovered confidently, hitting with full power.

If Penn can take the game to Boone instead of playing a defensive role he has a chance. Of the maximum best-of-seven games he must win four, but even if Boone secures two games to level at 6-6 he can still win on points difference.

REAL TENNIS

Davies faces Ronaldson

Wayne Davies will meet Chris Ronaldson in the open singles championship final, sponsored by George Wimpey, at Queen's Club tomorrow (William Stephens writes).

Davies defeated Colin Lumley yesterday by 6-4, 6-1, 6-2 in an absorbing contest of touch play. Each sought to out-maneuuvre the other in a pattern of calculated moves like physical chess. Lumley managed several times to draw Davies towards the net and put the ball past him down the walls, but Davies was the more consistent.

Ronaldson, in top form, beat Lachlan Deuchar.

半級: W F Davies (New York) vs C J Lumley (unr 6-4, 6-2, 6-1); C J Ronaldson (Court 52, 6-1, 6-1).

JUDO

Miss Briggs on trial at 52kg

Britain's world bantamweight champion, Karen Brigg, of Hull, takes on a new challenge this weekend when she contests the under-11s title at Crystal Palace in a higher category: featherweight (Philippa Nickson writes).

"I have decided to fight at 52 kilos now because I have done everything, a new incentive," Miss Briggs said. "Today's senior trials for men and women will see only the top four qualify for the national squad. The junior trials take place tomorrow."

Inexperience no obstacle to Centroline in Mecca Hurdle

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Centroline appears to have a sporting chance of winning the difficult Mecca Bookmakers Handicap Hurdle at Sandown Park today. A good horse on the Flat - he was runner-up in the Ebor Handicap at York this summer, besides winning a valuable handicap at Doncaster and finishing fourth in the Irish St. Leger - Centroline has only limited experience of hurdling. However his trainer, Chris Bell, still believes he is gifted enough to overcome his inexperience and make his class tell with only 10lb to go on his track.

In the Mecca Bookmakers' Three-Year-Old Championship the champion jockey will be on Tamino, a recent expensive buy by Fred Winter on behalf of Mrs Miles Valentine, out of Henry Cecil's Flat stable.

On the occasion, though, I prefer Jamesmead, who impressed the handicapper seems to have got his gripes out of his system. So I am looking to Rose Ravine, Star of Seven and Pradeaux when the race finally comes to the boil.

Michael Seely, my colleague from the Ewell Handicap Chase, here to the rescue, though I prefer Jamesmead, who impressed the handicapper seems to have got his gripes out of his system. So I am looking to Rose Ravine, Star of Seven and Pradeaux when the race finally comes to the boil.

If Rose Ravine runs well, over a distance that is basically shorter than her trainer Fulke Walwyn considers ideal, she will draw attention to the seemingly excellent chance my horse, Bolands Cross has of winning the Doug Barrott Handicap Hurdle later in the day. At Newbury, eight days ago, Bolands Cross had Rose Ravine three lengths behind when he won a handicap hurdle over two and a half miles in heavy ground. That performance pointed to him being in his element over two miles and five furlongs today and capable of making light of his penalty in the capable hands of Richard Linley.

Finally, the conditions of the Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow look tailor-made to suit Tom's Little Al, earlier in the afternoon John Francome can continue his triumphant march by winning

the 1.00 Hazy Sunset, 3.0 Freight Forwarder, 6.2 Bright Morning, 8 Our Fun, 25 Slim Boy.

By Michael Phillips

GOING: soft to firm, 2.0, 3.0, 3.0, 3.0

1.0 HENRY VIII NOVICE CHASE (£3,603; 2m 18yd) (6 runners)

100 11 STANFORD (M) (S) Gossell 11-0 ... M Acheson

102 112/21 PRESTON FORWARDER (M) (S) Gossell 11-0-1 ... G McCourt

104 1211-4 WHITBY ROSE (C) (J) Cronin 6-7-10-1 ... P McNamee

105 p-3403B MOUNTVILLE (P) Varney R Hobbs 10-12 ... R Howe

106 4-0004C SLIM BOY (C) (S) C Williams 10-12 ... R Howe

108 4-0004C SLIM BOY (C) (S) C Williams 10-12 ... R Howe

109 4-0004C SLIM BOY (C) (S) C Williams 10-12 ... R Howe

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170 4-0004C SLIM BOY (C) (S) C Williams 10-12 ... R Howe

171 4-0004C SLIM BOY (C) (S) C Williams 10-12 ... R Howe

172 4-0004C SLIM BOY (C) (S) C Williams

Soviet assault on Olympic Games leaders

From David Miller, Lausanne

The Soviet Union last night launched a vitriolic attack on the International Olympic Committee and its leaders for the organization and conduct of the Los Angeles Olympic Games, which was boycotted by the Russians and their allies.

In an unprecedented five-page letter of some 2,000 words on the eve of an IOC meeting, Constantin Andreyev and Vitaly Smirnov, the Soviet members of the IOC, accused the committee of corruptly awarding the Games to Los Angeles in 1978, having been given a prior assurance of the \$235 million television rights contract.

Los Angeles, operating as a private committee, were the only available candidates for the IOC following the withdrawal of Teheran. The Soviet Union hints that Mexico and Munich were alternative hosts, which was not so.

The truth of the Soviet accusation was totally denied here last night by Lord Killanin, who in 1978 was IOC president in charge of negotiations for the only remaining hope of an Olympics in 1984.

Mr Andreyev and Mr Smirnov further alleged that the

IOC is guilty of racial discrimination by nine of its individual sports federations maintaining contact with South Africa; that changes in the draft of the charter to permit Los Angeles to stage the Games were illegally conducted by postal vote; that three villages were improperly approved in Los Angeles; and so on. None of the accusations bears analysis.

It is a clear attempt by the Soviet Union to make a belated counter-attack for its absence from Los Angeles, which is now regarded by most people as having been a loss only for those involved in the boycott.

The extraordinary session of members here today and tomorrow is intended to discuss, among other things, means of avoiding future boycotts, with sanctions to be taken against guilty countries.

While claiming that the charter has been violated by the IOC, Mr Andreyev and Mr Smirnov demand closer links with the United Nations and the discredited Unesco, and by national Olympic committees with their governments: all of which would be contrary to the spirit and rules of the charter.

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Poles take boat to Rotterdam

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cut-price stereo equipment warehouses. A cheaply purchased video recorder can net the commercially minded Pole \$300 (£250) profit when he returns to the motherland. Charged on the black market (at five times the official exchange rate) that can more than cover the cost of the cruise.

The most astonishing black market cruise was related to me by the son of well-to-do parents. Three Poles booked themselves on to a summer Mediterranean cruise starting from Odessa on a Soviet liner, but made the initial investment of buying \$200 worth of jeans.

These were sold at 30 roubles a pair in the corridors of the Moscow-Odessa express and the roubles were then used in the main to buy sheets of silver acetate and

household drills on the flourishing dockside black market in Odessa.

The cruise began at the first stop, in Bulgaria, the Poles bought Turkish currency (readily available on the illegal Bulgarian exchange). At a stopover in Turkey, the drills and silver acetate were exchanged for leather coats and handbags; in Greece the leather was sold and the gang bought lamb's wool in Naples the wool was sold for Italian lire.

At every stop, the three passengers (first off the ship, last on) were also amassing hard currency profits. The final stop before returning to the Soviet bloc was Lebanon, where the Italian lire were changed into dollars and used to buy 5,000 University of Nebraska T-shirts.

The Odessa customs were

bribed and the T-shirts were sold for a small double fortune. In Moscow the roubles were used to buy diamonds which were smuggled with ease back into Poland. One of the three then travelled to Sweden, where he sold the diamonds for some \$50,000.

According to another version of this story, engraved in the hearts of all big time Polish black marketers, the Pole who went to Sweden to cash in the diamonds decided to defect and has now married (bigamously) a Swedish girl.

True or not, it smacks of the rough justice of Greek mythology and perhaps that is the correct way of approaching the Polish cruise: An odyssey in search of the tarnished dreams of the West or the crock of gold tucked away in the black markets of the Soviet Bloc.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

New exhibitions

Bath Children's Art, Victoria Art Gallery, Bridge Street, Bath; Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 5, closed at 5

Solutions of Puzzle No 16,594

Solutions of Puzzle No 16,599

NATIONAL ORIENTAL

INDIA

CHINA

THAILAND

AMERICA

AFRICA

EUROPE

MIDDLE EAST

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